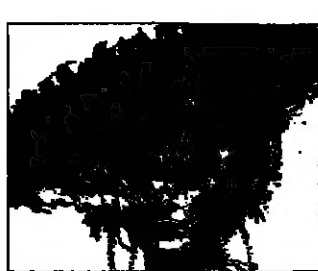




Stanley Matthews at 80

Football's modest magician who still wonders what the fuss was all about, page 44



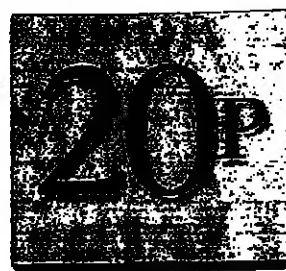
Fantasy fashion

Iain R. Webb on heavenly collections at Paris, page 13



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THE TIMES



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93094

Document reveals proposals that will alarm Ulster Unionists

Anglo-Irish plan for joint body

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

THE British and Irish Governments have drawn up a document that brings the prospect of a united Ireland closer than it has been at any time since partition in 1920. The constitutional deal, to be discussed at a summit between John Major and John Bruton, the Irish Taoiseach, is certain to be seen as a sell-out by the Unionist community.

The document obtained by *The Times* reveals:

□ A joint North-South Irish authority with radical executive powers, including the right to deal with Brussels.

□ A declaration of "the birth-right of everyone born in either jurisdiction to be part of the right of the Irish nation".

□ The planned "harmonisation" of agricultural, trade, education and health policies.

□ The hope that powers and functions will be extended.

According to the draft from sources in Dublin, the body will bring together members of the Irish Government with representatives of the planned devolved Ulster administrative assembly. The new cross-border institution, which will be seen by many on both sides as the engine for the reunification of Ireland, will bring together senior politicians and civil servants from North and South. Membership will be compulsory for the relevant heads of department in each administration.

The executive powers would be sweeping. In the first instance, it would take over "sectors involving a natural, physical all-Ireland framework", and "European Commission programmes and initiatives". The body would make policy "for the whole island in respect of the challenges and opportunities of the European Union". That responsibility alone would divert considerable sums away from Dublin and the British Government. In 1993, the Republic of Ireland was granted more than £2



Bruton: deal to be discussed at summit with John Major

billions by the EU. Ulster was recently given £240 million by the EU to assist the peace process and will receive an additional £1 billion from Brussels by 1999.

Crucially, the extent of the body's eventual responsibilities is left open-ended. The document states: "The British Government has no limits to impose on the nature and extent of functions in the transferred field." It adds: "The remit of the body should be dynamic, enabling progressive extension of its functions to new areas."

The proposals will form the basis for the resumption of inter-party talks. The outcome will be put to referendums, which both Governments hope will secure the peace. Potentially, they represent the most sweeping constitutional changes to the status of Ulster since 1920.

The blueprint has been under discussion for more than a year and is long overdue. The agreement has yet to be completed but the this version suggests that most of the main elements are in place. The document states the absolute neutrality of the British Government, concerning the constitutional future of Northern Ireland "whether in remaining a part of the United Kingdom or in forming part of a united Ireland". The principle of consent enshrined in the Downing Street declaration is reiterated.

The proposals for a new North-South body go further even than the 1973 Sunningdale Agreement that led to the Ulster Workers' Council strike the following year. Today's disclosures will alarm many Unionists who were promised by Mr Major last week that the draft would contain "no proposals" for joint authority.

It is understood that relations between the Ulster Unionists and the Northern Ireland Office are at their lowest since the Downing Street declaration and that the Unionist leadership considers itself effectively excluded from the consultative process. Several members of the Cabinet, led by Viscount Cranborne, are warning in private that the proposed deal will never be accepted by the Protestant community in the North.

The document also envisages a constitutional trade-off between London and Dublin. Britain will amend or replace the Government of Ireland Act 1920, which asserts the sovereignty of Parliament in the Province. In return, the Irish Government will introduce proposals for changes to Articles 2 and 3 of the Republic's constitution, which embody the territorial claim to the North. This section of the document is less precise, suggesting that the exact terms of the deal have yet to be decided.

The blueprint says that "future structures should afford both communities secure and satisfactory political, administrative and symbolic expression and protection". It is expected that this public will remove from public servants, judges and policemen in the North the obligation to swear an oath of loyalty to the Crown.

Document details, page 2
Leading article, page 15



The Princess of Wales sporting her new hairstyle at the Lincoln Centre in New York

Princess opts for the 'wet look' in New York

By EMMA WILKINS AND JAMES BONE

THE Princess of Wales has followed in the footsteps of supermodels and pop stars by adopting a new "wet look" hairstyle designed to break with the past.

The princess unveiled the sleek style in New York on Monday night when she attended an award ceremony held by the American fashion industry at the Lincoln Centre. She set off the new hair-do with a navy blue evening dress.

Reaction to the new look was mixed, with some guests muttering that the princess looked as though she had just climbed out of a shower. Others commented that the princess, looking robust and healthy, appeared to have won her battle with bulimia, the slimming disease.

Lauren Hutton, the veteran supermodel, was impressed: "She looked divine — such stature." When one man in the audience shouted, "Move to New York," Ms Hutton called out her agreement: "We want you here," she said.

The hairstyle is the work of Sam McKnight, 39, who has styled the princess's hair for three years and accompanied her on recent visits to Zimbabwe and India.

Mr McKnight, who is based in New York, has worked with Madonna and supermodels Naomi Campbell, Claudia Schiffer and Helena Christensen. The son of an Ayrshire miner, he does not publicly discuss his work with the princess. But he acknowledges that new styles will be a reflection of the heyday of Hollywood glamour.

"Styles will be much more

groomed with a lot of twenties, thirties, forties and fifties influences, yet with a futuristic overtone," he said.

Jackie Wadson, editor of *Hair* magazine, said: "It is not the Diana we know, but it was time she had a change. Her hair was beginning to look dated," she said.

The princess attended the dinner to present an award to Liz Tilberis, the British editor of the American magazine *Harper's Bazaar*. Praising Ms Tilberis's fortitude in her battle against cancer, the princess said: "She is a lady from my own country who is a dear friend and whose talents and courage have been an inspiration to us all."

The dinner, which was hosted by Veronica and Randolph Hearst — grandson of the original 'Citizen Kane' — was attended by fashion designers Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Ralph Lauren and Isaac Mizrahi. John F. Kennedy Jr., son of the former American President and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, failed to turn up.

While some interpreted his absence as a snub, it is understood that Mr Kennedy may have been called away to a funeral.



The view from the back

The Times

We apologise to readers and newsgroups who did not receive the paper yesterday, or experienced late deliveries. This was due to interruptions in the electricity supply to our Wapping plant.

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Rebels welcome shift on Europe

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TORY Euro-rebels last night underlined the Government's shift towards Euro-scepticism by declaring that they were "much encouraged" by recent statements on Europe by John Major and other ministers. Eight of the nine "whipless" MPs said in a surprise statement that the "new direction of Government policy" would lead to an improvement in the party's standing.

As senior Conservative friends of the rebels launched

a new bid to bring them back into the fold yesterday, the rebels themselves appeared to be holding out for more from the Government. In their statement they called on ministers to define powers which they would seek to have returned from Brussels to national governments.

The move will provoke further alarm among Conservatives.

Continued on page 2, col 6
Business News, page 24

250,000 evacuated as Dutch defences weaken

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN NIMEGEN

HOLLAND was last night staring in the face of ecological disaster, as 250,000 people were being evacuated in the eastern provinces, engulfed by rising tides of water that are threatening to flood large parts of the lowlands.

The Dutch authorities yesterday ordered the evacuation of 140,000 people in the region of Tiel and Culemborg, 13 miles west of Nijmegen, as the high waters claimed their first victim. One of two people pulled from the river Waal at the village of Winnen died, and the other was taken

to hospital. The latest evacuation order came after 100,000 inhabitants in an adjacent area were forced to leave their homes yesterday morning. While none of the areas are yet under water, the Dutch authorities have ordered the evacuation as a precautionary measure, amid fears that the dikes may not break down and unleash a flood tide that would leave an area of around 400 sq miles more than 16ft under water.

At risk is the region closed in by the rivers Maas and Waal to the west of Nijmegen. Yesterday's evacuation was the largest in Holland since 1953, when 1,800 people died in one of the worst North Sea flooding disasters in

history. There were reports last night that dikes in western Holland were showing the first signs of wear, raising doubts about the stability of dikes elsewhere in the country. A critical point will be reached this morning when flood levels are forecast to reach a peak.

Dikes are protective slopes, made of sand, and placed alongside the river. Their function is to absorb water, similar to a sponge. With continued flooding, dikes become increasingly saturated and run the risk of collapse under the weight of the water, a risk that was increased further by the strong winds. A break even in a single place would open the floodgates to the

vast low-lying areas of eastern Holland.

In a televised address, Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, said that "We live hour by hour with the fears, worries and emotions of tens of thousands of citizens. People are leaving their homes and possessions without knowing how and when they will get back to them."

More than 160 soldiers from the Royal Air Force Regiment based at Laarbruch on the Dutch/German border are helping to bolster defences against the rapidly rising River Maas.

Peter Millar, page 12
Greatest escape, page 10

Smokers win legal aid in fight against tobacco firms

By FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE with lung cancer and other diseases blamed on smoking have won legal aid to investigate if they can bring a suit for damages against the tobacco industry.

The decision of the Legal Aid Board to grant support to around 200 people who claim smoking has damaged their health paves the way for what could be first legal action of its kind in this country. If it proceeds, it could lead to possibly the biggest law suit ever.

The decision comes after a two-year fight by law firms to obtain public funds to pursue a claim and after previous applications for legal aid were turned down.

Charles Hopkins, a solicitor with one of the firms, Leigh Day & Co, said: "This is a very important decision. It means we have the legal aid to carry out the initial investigations which has not happened before in this country. We've been working towards this for over two years and if we had failed this time, it is doubtful if any of these cases could have carried on."

The group, which include sufferers from lung cancer and Buerger's disease, will seek to establish that the tobacco companies failed to reduce or eliminate the harmful contents of cigarettes and failed to give adequate warnings of the dangers of smoking.

Amelia Sandford of Action on Smoking and Health, said: "This is excellent news. There are still procedural hurdles to clear, but now there is a good chance that the tobacco companies will be forced to account for the discrepancy between their public stance and what is revealed by their own files on smoking and health." She claimed that leaked papers had shown that at least 30 years ago, the

companies knew there was a link between tobacco smoke and cancer and that nicotine was addictive.

"Yet they are still denying these facts today in an attempt to reassure smokers and deter them from quitting."

The decision to grant legal aid was taken by an independent area committee of the Legal Aid Board made up of lawyers, after hearing representations from the tobacco industry.

Legal aid was applied for in June 1992 and refused. The lawyers on behalf of the group then applied to the Legal Aid area committee which also refused to grant support.

The lawyers then brought judicial review proceedings against the Legal Aid Board in the High Court last summer, where the judges decided to ask the board to review its decision.

Richard Beverley, a senior partner at Freeth Hunt Cartright & Dickens, solicitors in Nottingham said: "The argument is that the tobacco companies should have taken greater steps to reduce or eliminate the tar content from cigarettes. The granting of legal aid recognises that our clients have reasonable grounds for taking court proceedings. This, however, is only the first step. There is a substantial amount of investigative work still to be carried out before any court proceedings could be started."

BAT Industries, which is one of the potential defendants even though it stopped selling cigarettes in Britain in the 1980s, said it would not comment until it has seen the details of the decision.

A spokesman said the legal aid certificates will not necessarily lead to legal proceedings. "It will allow their lawyers to do some preliminary investigations," he said.

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Anglo-Irish document

Detailed proposals for Ulster suggest fresh approach

THE JOINT framework document setting out the future of Ulster is far more detailed than was expected. Until recently, officials were saying that the proposals might be fairly modest.

In fact, the late draft seen by *The Times* is just the opposite. In convoluted prose it sets out the means by which the constitutional status of Northern Ireland will be transformed. The document suggests, furthermore, that the British and Irish governments would like to see a rapid settlement.

The purpose of the Downing Street Declaration of December 1993 was to secure Unionist support for the peace process by recognising the need for majority consent in the North. The purpose of the framework document, in contrast, appears to be to ensure the survival of the IRA ceasefire by making sufficient concessions to the nationalist cause.

The document envisages a "new approach".

□ British neutrality: "Future relationships relating to

■ Draft London-Dublin proposals, seen by *The Times*, go much further than had expected, Matthew d'Ancona writes

Northern Ireland," it says, "should respect the full and equal legitimacy and worth of the identity, sense of allegiance, aspirations and ethos of both the Unionist and nationalist communities."

The British Government pledges "rigorous impartiality" in its rule over the Province. "In discharging its responsibility, it will do so in a way which does not prejudice the freedom of the people of Northern Ireland to determine by peaceful democratic means its future constitutional status."

□ A new cross-border authority: the document envisages "a North-South body involving heads of department on both sides dually established and mandated by legislation in both sovereign parliaments." It will "discharge or oversee delegated

executive, harmonising or consultative functions as appropriate."

Participation in the body would be "a duty of service in relevant posts in the two administrations". Departmental heads in the planned Ulster administrative assembly, in other words, would be obliged to recognise and take part in the new institutions.

□ Initial powers: the body will assume immediate executive responsibility for "sectors involving a natural, physical all-Ireland framework". This appears to refer to areas such as transport, communications and minerals.

The new institution would also take over relations with Brussels. In addition, the body will encourage "harmonisation" between North and South of most policy areas ranging from education to agriculture.

□ Development of the new authority: The document encourages the body to take over further areas of responsibility. "The result of the body should be dynamic, enabling progressive extension of its functions to new areas. Its role should develop to keep pace with the growth of harmonisation and with greater integration between the two economies."

□ A constitutional deal: Britain promises legislative change. "The new approach for Northern Ireland will be enshrined in British constitutional legislation... either by amendment of the Government of Ireland Act 1920 or by its replacement by appropriate new legislation and appropriate new provisions."

In return, the Republic will introduce and support proposals for change in the Irish constitution. "These changes will fully reflect the principle of consent in Northern Ireland... (so) that no territorial claim of right over Northern Ireland contrary to the will of its people is asserted."

The Irish government yesterday delayed moves to free more IRA prisoners in response to the continuing ceasefires. After Cabinet consideration of a list of planned releases, a spokesman said "minor matters" had to be resolved, but said a decision would be taken soon.

Anglo-Irish plan, page 1

BT chief angers doctors with work claim

By Philip Bassett
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE chairman of BT, Sir Iain Vallance, said yesterday that his £663,000-a-year job was tougher than that of a junior hospital doctor.

His remark to a Commons committee that the doctors' job was "relaxing" compared with his prompted strong protests from junior doctors' leaders, who have been campaigning against low pay and long hours.

Sir Iain, who claims to work 70 hours a week as the chairman of Britain's largest private company, restarted the controversy over executive salaries when he was grilled on his pay, benefits, hours and pensions by MPs. He told the all-party Employment Select Committee: "I would quite like a job as a junior doctor in the NHS. It might be relaxing."

He also disclosed that he worked for a day and a half a month as a non-executive director of the Royal Bank of Scotland at an annual salary of £50,000, which MPs immediately calculated was a rate of about £2,800 a day.

MPs on the committee were shocked by Sir Iain's comment about doctors, and a few minutes after making it he said under further questioning that it was a "flip remark" and that "in retrospect I might not have wished to have made it". He insisted that what he had been trying to say was that he worked a



Sir Iain: job tougher than a junior hospital doctor's

"fair number of hours" for his salary package, just as junior doctors did.

Replying to Labour MPs' charges that junior doctors were overworked and underpaid, he said: "I very much hope that they are paid a fair and just reward." Under an agreement reached with the Government after lengthy negotiations, junior doctors by

this year should be working a maximum contracted week of 83 hours — though many are still working considerably in excess of that.

Government figures show that the average earnings for all doctors in Britain are currently about £32,000, £631,000 less than Sir Iain's BT salary package alone.

Job cut waves, page 23

Clark shoe factory closure 'will create a ghost town'

By Andrew Pierce and Robin Barnwell

BRITAIN'S best-known family shoemaker, C & J Clark, announced yesterday that it was shutting one of its West Country factories with the loss of 360 jobs. The factory is the largest employer in Radstock, Avon, a town with a population of 5,000. Some staff had been at the factory since it opened in 1950. Civic leaders feared the decision would turn Radstock into a "ghost town".

Radstock residents blamed a bitter boardroom feud, which has split the company down the middle, for the surprise decision to close the factory. The decision, which was relayed to a mass meeting of staff yesterday, has devastated the tiny town, which is dominated by the Clark family. Some employees wept openly as Dudley Cheesman, the production director, made the announcement. John Iles,

district officer of the National Union of Knitwear, Footwear and Apparel Workers, said: "It will turn Radstock into a ghost town. Where will the youngsters get jobs now? There are more than 3,100 people of working age in the town."

Terence Reakes, chairman of Norton and Radstock town council, said the closure was a disaster. "It is an absolute tragedy. This factory is part of our history. There will be hardly any work left for our people now. After the boardroom battle people lost confidence in the company and the shareholders."

Last year 250 jobs were abolished at the factory, which specialises in children's shoes. Two years earlier the company shed 250 jobs in the neighbouring village of Street, the home of the 167-year-old shoe company. Management

was unable to rule out further job losses in the company, which employs more than 2,000 people in its West Country heartland.

In October 1992 shareholders rejected a boardroom proposal to sell the company to Berriford International, which would have marked the end of a British institution. In 1990 the company made a £30 million profit, in 1993 it recorded a loss.

□ Birmingham City Council, the biggest local authority in England, is making redundant 600 staff from its £50,000 payroll as part of spending cuts of £41 million next year.

Workers were told that the council hoped to achieve the job losses through voluntary redundancies and redeployment. Other planned savings include a £4 million cut in the leisure services budget.

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

MV Bottomley surges past dazed penguins

Ms Virginia Bottomley swept into the Chamber yesterday in black crinoline and a silk scarf, to offer us (as Margaret Beckett observed) "a great many statistics, some of which are correct".

There is something awesome about Virginia Bottomley. She ploughs, relentless, across her field like a reinforced icebreaker smashing its way at full steam through a sea of pack-ice. It is done with no great delicacy but enviable power. Commons penguins look up in wonder from their floes as the MV Bottomley goes crashing past, billowing statistics from her funnels while the ice field cracks before her. The sheer momentum of a Bottomley at the dispatch box astounds.

Yesterday a group of Labour backbenchers tried to block her course. As each rose and was bashed back down, her eyes began to blaze. She looked wildly around the Chamber with a "who's next?" glance — half belligerent, half coquettish.

The Liberal Democrats' Alex Carlile was presumptuous enough to ask why spending on mental health services was so niggardly in London.

Three blasts on the ship's whistle and she was away. She hit him with speciality centres for cancer, with what she called "supervised discharge" and "a more assertive, pro-active approach"... She hit him with hospitals, she hit him with Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, she hit him with sympathy and she hit him with concern. The one thing she did not hit him with was an answer.

Five yards away sat her husband Peter. Mr B stared at Mrs B adoringly throughout. He gripped his teeth when she gripped hers; he glared at her hecklers; he smiled in triumph when she scored. One Bottomley gazed up at another with such bottomless adoration that we felt very sure that

even after all these years, power, among Bottomleys, is still an aphrodisiac.

Only Margaret Beckett remained cool. There is something admirable about the Shadow Health Secretary. She is quite unimpressed by all this, and faintly amused by the Health Secretary's presumption. She glances at Virginia storming away, as might a rather quiet, competent senior girl at a showy performance by a hockey-team prima donna. From time to time and without histrionics she unpicks a statistic Mrs Bottomley has brandished, or reminds her of a question she is avoiding.

After an unsuccessful campaign for the Labour leadership which (in your sketchwriter's view) diminished Mrs Beckett not at all, she has been given a portfolio which cannot have been her first choice, and, without fuss, applied herself to it with care and thoroughness.

Beckett makes perceptive, original speeches. Imputedly, a virtual reality world of Mrs Bottomley's "internal health market" and its not-quite-real facsimiles, and she dogs the Tory health team with insistent, courteous but unimpressed inquiries.

Yesterday she told the Health Secretary that waiting lists were getting longer. Terry Lewis (Lab, Worsley) supported her: "There's even a waiting list to get on to the waiting list," he said.

"And there's a waiting list to get on to that," added Kevin Hughes (Lab, Doncaster N): you waited to see the consultant who waited for the waiting list. That made three lists.

"There's a further waiting list," said John Marek (Lab, Wrexham). Someone he knew had been turned away because the operating theatre was busy, and told to return another day.

"Any advance on four?" called Dennis Skinner.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MPs examine secret Gulf War vaccines

The Ministry of Defence will come under pressure today to declassify a secret document handed in confidence to a Commons committee which reveals the "cocktail" of vaccines given to servicemen fighting in the Gulf War. MPs on the Commons Defence Committee are starting an investigation today into the so-called Gulf War syndrome which has allegedly affected more than 500 veterans of the 1991 conflict. The war veterans are suing the MoD, claiming that the injections damaged their health.

Calf flights resume

Farmers resumed airlifting calves to the Continent yesterday from Coventry airport after a High Court judge refused an appeal by Coventry City Council to ban livestock flights. Nearly 200 calves were flown to Amsterdam by Phoenix Aviation, the company whose leased Boeing 737 crashed near the city's airport on December 21.

Siege police charges

Two senior police officers are to face disciplinary charges relating to the shooting of Ian Fitzgerald, 39, during a siege at his manor house near Dippford, south Devon, in October 1993. An inquest in December found that Mr Fitzgerald, a farmer, was lawfully killed. The Crown Prosecution Service will not bring criminal charges.

New meningitis death

Hayley Woodward, left, has become the latest child victim of meningitis. The six-year-old died in hospital after being sent home from school complaining of a headache. At least six children have died from bacterial meningitis, or its complications, since Christmas. Letters are going to parents of pupils at Hayley's school. All Saints primary in Coventry, warning them to watch for flu-like symptoms.

Poison charges dropped

Dr Paul Agutter, 48, of Athelstanford, Lothian, who denies attempting to murder his wife by poisoning her, had some other charges dropped yesterday. The Crown at the High Court in Edinburgh withdrew a charge of attempting to murder a girl and attempting to cause injury to people who drank poisoned tonic water. The trial continues.

Times law prize winner

A student with a degree in Russian studies took first prize in *The Times* Law Awards yesterday. Iain Pester, 23, reading law at Merton College, Oxford, came top of 150 entries with his essay on "How can civil justice system satisfy its consumers?" Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, presented the cheque for £3,000. Law, page 34

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Fears of timetable cuts as rail sell-off details emerge

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

THE Government was accused of paving the way for deep cuts in rail services across southern England and South Wales yesterday after it announced minimum service requirements for four key rail operators after privatisation.

Opposition parties, transport lobby-groups and trade unions joined forces in a storm of protest after Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, and Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, unveiled the proposed terms of the first tranche of rail franchises.

The four services — Gatwick Express; Great Western; London Tilbury and Southend; and South West — are the first of 25 franchises to be auctioned to private operators from early next year.

The minimum service requirements announced yesterday represent 55 per cent of the current service on Gatwick Express, 80 per cent on Great Western, and 90 per cent on South West trains and the London Tilbury and Southend line.

Labour accused the Government of going back on previous pledges that guaranteed

services would be maintained at existing levels after privatisation.

However, in the Commons John Major insisted that the private sector intended to "exercise their freedom to increase services" rather than cut them.

The sharpest reductions in the minimum level of service will be on the Gatwick Express service, where the required frequency between the airport and Victoria station will be two trains an hour most of the day compared with the current four an hour.

While London commuter services have been largely protected, the minimum service on Inter-City lines to Southampton and Portsmouth on the south coast, Bristol, Bath, and Penzance are also well below current levels.

The daily Irish boat-train to Fishguard and through trains from London to Carmarthen have not been included in the minimum service specification, leaving them exposed to being dropped by private operators.

However, Dr Mawhinney brandished written pledges

from the heads of each of the four companies currently running the franchises that the current services will be maintained or increased next year.

He also insisted that the reduced minimum service requirements would lead to more, not fewer, trains. "Cuts are not the name of the game," he said.

Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said: "I expected cuts, but I did not expect cuts on this scale."

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the RMT rail union, said it was "absolute nonsense" for the Government to pretend it was just laying down minimum standards. "We all know that in many parts of the country the minimum will become the maximum and train services will be lost for ever."

Lew Adams, general secretary of the train drivers' union Aslef, said: "You can kiss the social railway goodbye. Inviting private-sector train operators to provide a minimum level of service will inevitably lead to a diminished timetable and greater inconvenience to rail travellers."

FIRST FOUR FRANCHISED LINES



Minimum service requirements

Route from London	now	May 95
Gatwick Express	4	2
2 trains (Sun-Tues, Thurs at other times)		
Great Western		
Reading	80 per day (7)	1
Bristol	2	1
Bath	2	1
Penzance	6 per day (5)	
London, Tilbury and Southend		
Shoeburyness	4	2
South West Trains		
Portsmouth	3	2
Southampton	3	2

Business News, page 24

I could see her in the flames, PC tells arson trial



PC Hall: "Her hair and face were aflame"

By PAUL WILKINSON

A POLICEMAN broke down yesterday as he described to a court the moment a jealous husband set his wife on fire. "The air in the room was on fire," PC George Hall said. "It was impossible to breathe. Everything was ablaze. I could see her in the flames, her hair and her face were on fire. Her body was on fire, she just seemed to be melting."

PC Hall, who was badly burnt himself and was off work for 10 weeks, was giving evidence on the second day of the trial of Leslie Beattie, 35, who has denied attempting to murder his wife Michelle. He also denies arson with intent to endanger life. Although he admits pouring petrol around her, he claims that a lighter he was holding

went off accidentally as police broke into the room. Mrs Beattie, 31, was permanently disfigured in the fire in their home in Cramlington, Northumberland, in December 1993, and wears a surgical mask for 23 hours a day to protect her scarred face.

PC Hall described to Durham Crown Court how he and two colleagues had answered an emergency call to the house. "We ran upstairs, there was a strong smell of petrol. The bedroom door opened slightly and I heard the man say 'you're wasting your time lads' then the door shut."

He heard a woman scream and they kicked the door down. "I rushed in and saw a man with a petrol can. He was throwing petrol around the room. I tried to pin his arms to his sides but he pushed me back. The next thing I

recall was seeing flames close to my feet. They were coming towards me on the floor along the walls. Everything was in slow motion. Then the room just exploded."

At that point in his evidence the constable broke down and Mr Justice Laws offered him time to gather his thoughts. After a deep breath he continued. "I was trying to get away from the flames and told myself 'I have to get out of here', but the door was shut and I was trapped in the room. I was trying to open the handle but someone was putting pressure on it from the other side. I realised if I did not get out there and then I was going to die. I turned to run and jump out of the window but Mrs Beattie was lying there blocking my way. I was on fire too but managed to jerk the door open.

I ran to the bathroom and threw water over myself. The house had turned into an inferno by this stage.

"I wanted to go back into the room to get Mrs Beattie because I thought she was still in there. I ran downstairs. I saw Mrs Beattie had managed to get out and was in the living room. I was so relieved she had escaped."

The jury has already heard that the couple were planning to divorce after she began an affair with Graham Walton, a colleague at the Department of Social Security in Newcastle upon Tyne, where she worked. Mr Beattie told police after the fire that he was simply trying to draw attention to his plight and wanted to create a "siege situation". He said: "I didn't want to harm her. I still care about her."

The trial continues.

"We don't regret a minute and would do it all again if we had the chance"

Elusive ladies say life on the run was long holiday

By LIN JENKINS AND BILL FROST

TWO widows in their seventies who became known as Britain's most wanted pensioners told of their glamorous life on the run yesterday and vowed never return to their families.

Winifred Bristow, 76, and her 74-year-old sister Joan Payne, who were both questioned by police investigating claims of unpaid hotel bills and forged cheques, said: "It was just like one big long holiday. We don't regret a minute of it and would do it all again if we had the chance."

The sisters were the subject of a bizarre hunt after they disappeared from their home

in East Grinstead, West Sussex, in May 1992 after telling relatives they were taking a short holiday. They were finally tracked down this week to a rented holiday cottage in the quiet Suffolk village of Heston, near Bury St Edmunds.

Their companion Angela Dodge, 51, who is wanted by police investigating an alleged £30,000 string of frauds, had already left the cottage with her 11-year-old daughter. She told the sisters that she was going to find a new home for them.

"She has been a very good friend to us," Mrs Payne said last night. Mrs Bristow agreed: "We used to spend all our time knitting and reading. But we have had the time of our lives for the past three years and it's all due to her. We just want a place of our own to settle down and live our own lives like we have for the past three years. I know our family want us to come home but they are wasting their time. We will never return to our old life in East Grinstead."

The pair said they were introduced to Mrs Dodge by their nephew. "We hit it off with Angela straight away and her little girl was just adorable," Mrs Bristow said.



Cards on the table: Joan Payne, left, and Winifred Bristow at the cottage to which they were traced in Suffolk

"She told us she had been widowed twice and had a high-powered job running the North Terminal at Gatwick airport. She used to take us out to nice restaurants. She would really make a fuss of us."

Mrs Bristow went on: "Then one day she said she was moving to the West Country to start a new life. We were heartbroken, but she said we could come and spend weekends with her."

Subsequently the pair were

booked into a luxury hotel and Mrs Dodge insisted on paying the bill. "We used to have breakfast in the hotel every day and sometimes we all had dinner there in the evening. We were having a lovely time," Mrs Bristow recalled.

"But everything changed the day our younger sister Ruth, who is 70, tracked us down and tried to make us return to East Grinstead. We didn't want to go back and wanted to run our own lives.

That was really where it all started."

The sisters began a tour of expensive hotels and rented country homes which was to take them from the West Country to North Wales, Scotland and the Irish Republic.

"We were having a whale of a time and had no idea there was anything wrong," Mrs Bristow said.

The grandmothers were interviewed by police at the small, two-bedroom cottage

yesterday. Detective Constable Barry Woodley, the officer who led the hunt for them, said: "The old ladies aren't being particularly co-operative, but they said that Mrs Dodge got a bus to Cambridge last Thursday."

"We have no plans to charge them. The rent on the bungalow is paid up until the weekend so they aren't homeless, although they've only got a few quid left and the carnival is over for them now."

Banned driver 'killed girl of 6'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A DRIVER who had been disqualified drove off after knocking down and killing a girl aged six and injuring her sister as they crossed a road, a court was told yesterday.

Gary Howarth, 31, was at the wheel of what was effectively a stolen van when he hit Tracy Kennedy and her four-year-old sister Sonia as they stepped from behind parked cars near their home in Bolton, Preston Crown Court was told.

David Sumner, for the prosecution, said Mr Howarth had been parked in the street in the Ford Fiesta diesel van one

evening last May and drove off at a speed "in excess of that required from a careful and competent driver". The girls stepped from behind a parked car into the path of the van, and Tracy suffered injuries from which she died shortly afterwards. Sonia received a broken leg.

Mr Sumner told the court: "The evidence will be the defendant stopped briefly. He didn't stop. He didn't know. He was the briefest of pauses, then he carried on his way. The defendant was to tell the police later the reason why he didn't stop and immediately render assistance was because

he was a disqualified driver." Mr Howarth, of Farnworth, Bolton, pleaded not guilty to causing death by dangerous driving. Mr Sumner said Mr Howarth admitted to having convictions for aggravated vehicle taking and driving while disqualified.

Mr Sumner said the van struck Sonia, a "glancing blow". It travelled 88ft before leaving Tracy on the road. "That is a considerable distance... The prosecution say the distance is compelling evidence of the speed at which it was being driven."

Mr Howarth had told police he had panicked and driven off. But he had told police a

"watered down" version. "He lied consistently, one lie after another designed to cover up that he knew perfectly well his driving was dangerous."

The girls' father, Ron Kennedy, said they had finished tea and wanted to go out to continue playing. In a statement read to the court he said: "I told them they could go out until seven but to be careful crossing the road."

A few seconds later he heard Sonia crying and saw her lying in the road. Then someone shouted. Tracy had been run over. "I carried Sonia to where Tracy was lying about 50 yards away."

The case continues.

Store withdraws violent storybook

By ANDREW PIERCE

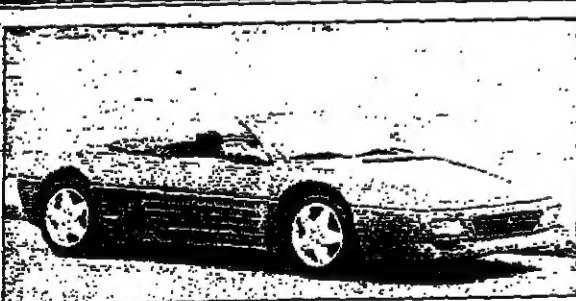
A CHILDREN'S book has been withdrawn by Sainsbury's because it contained references to gangland-style violence. *Abigail at the Beach* may sound innocent enough, but parents objected to the antics of the fictional child and her beer-swilling father.

Any children who dared interfere with Abigail's sandcastle were warned by her father that he would hang them upside down by the heels. Some parents refused to read on when she boasted that he was

in the Mafia and would break a boy's arms if he ruined her castle. Abigail told a girl that her daddy was a Marine who would shoot her dog if she went near the sandcastle.

Sainsbury's has only had four complaints. "When we bought the book we thought it was tongue-in-cheek but we have looked at it again and decided it is unsuitable," a spokeswoman said. The book, by Felix Pirani, is published by Diamond Books, the bargain section of HarperCollins.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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Dentist in overdose case freed by judge

By A STAFF REPORTER

A DENTIST whose "gross negligence" killed an elderly patient was set free yesterday after being found guilty of manslaughter.

Mr Justice Garland gave Stephen Stuart, 46, a nine-month prison sentence, but suspended it for a year, saying there was no need for a deterrent sentence. The family of the victim, 68-year-old Marie Everitt, who died of a massive overdose of anaesthetic, said they bore Mr Stuart "no ill will".

Mrs Everitt, a retired school cleaner, went to Stuart's surgery in Market Drayton, Shropshire, to have all 28 of her remaining teeth extracted. Stuart admitted he gave her 16 cartridges of two types of anaesthetic. The manufacturer's recommended maximum dose for a woman of her age was one and three-fifths cartridges. Mrs Everitt started twitching and died an hour later in the surgery.

Jonathan Caplan, for Stuart, told the court that the dentist would almost certainly never practise again.

Brando comeback in British film

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

MARLON BRANDO is close to taking a lead role in a British film in what is being seen as a renaissance of his career.

The part of a priest in *Divine Rapture*, a romantic black comedy, is one of several major roles for the star of *The Godfather* and *On the Waterfront*. His last big film, *Last Tango in Paris* and *Apocalypse Now*, date from the 1970s. For years he has taken only cameo roles.

The budget for *Divine Rapture*, at about £8 million, is relatively low. It is being produced by Barry Navidi and Denham Burger, who first worked together on *Mr Corbett's Ghost* with John Huston and Paul Scofield.

Brando is believed to have set aside two four-week filming periods in the spring or autumn. The film co-stars Debra Winger. Brando will play a priest who divides the church and local village with his efforts to make a saint of a woman who miraculously comes back from the dead. The film will be shot in Ireland, which for Brando, who has Irish blood, was one

of the production's greatest attractions.

The actor has just finished filming the £35 million drama *Don Juan DeMarco* and the *Centrefold*. According to *Variety*, he may go to Australia in the autumn to play the title character in the remake of *The Island of Dr Moreau*. Losing weight may be linked to his comeback. When his memoirs were published last summer, it was said that he had slimmed from 25 stone to 17 stone, on doctor's orders. He vowed to continue down to 13 stone.



Brando: return linked to loss of weight

Coroner criticises Army over inquiry

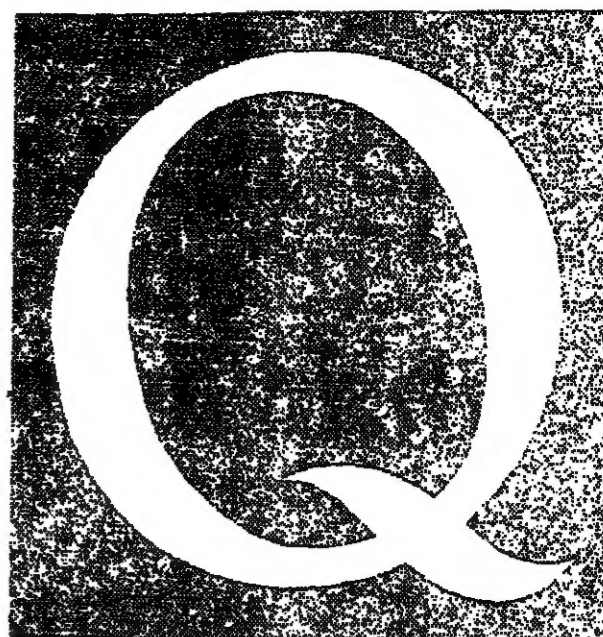
By A STAFF REPORTER

A CORONER accused the Army yesterday of bungling an investigation into the death of a soldier crushed by an armoured personnel carrier.

At the inquest at Poole, Nigel Neville-Jones ordered the Army to carry out an inquiry into the death of Private Marc Smith, 25, of Parkstone, Dorset. He demanded that the Army's director of legal services, Major General Anthony Rogers, appear before him to say why it had only just been decided not to prosecute four soldiers on manslaughter charges, eight months after the incident. The coroner also asked why soldiers waiting to give evidence had not had the opportunity until Monday to take legal advice.

Private Smith, of the Devon and Dorset Regiment, died at the British Army Training Unit in Suffield, Canada. It was understood he died after a collision between a Warrior armoured infantry fighting vehicle and a Land Rover in which he was a passenger. The hearing was adjourned until today.

New issue OUT NOW!



"I was as Bohemian as you get in Essex"



If you thought Blur were just the latest laddish sensation, join us as we delve into their secret history... A labyrinthine tale of bagpipes, the Ayatollah, jazz-punk, and Humpty Dumpty. It's all in this month's Q.

Q FEATURES

R.E.M., Portishead, Go-Go's, The Beautiful South, Top Of The Pops, Spinal Tap and what the kids (the real kids: eight year olds) think of rock.

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Out now! Read it in Q like other magazines do

Law Society says that fees charged by QCs for legal aid work are out of control

Trial of Maxwells likely to cost public over £10m

By FRANCES GIBB AND ANDREW PIERCE

THE cost to taxpayers of the fraud trial due to start in April involving Kevin and Ian Maxwell is likely to exceed £10 million, lawyers and MPs predicted yesterday.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, disclosed on Monday night that the total legal aid sum paid out so far to lawyers representing the two brothers and other defendants facing trial had reached £4,028,008, including VAT.

Costs are still rising and further amounts of public money, some of it more legal aid, will be run up when the trial, expected to be the most expensive this century, begins on April 18. The figures prompted accusations yesterday from solicitors, who pointing to the high "uncontrolled" fees of leading counsel in legal aid cases.

Henry Hodge, deputy vice-president of the Law Society, said that solicitors' criminal fees were now tightly controlled by hourly rates. But Queen's Counsel charged rates at the "legal aid market rate". He added: "This is the last area of the legal profession that is really out of control. The fees are not as great as rates charged for private work, but they are still high. There are guidelines on what they should charge, but these are regularly flouted in an estimated 50 per cent of cases."

Lord Mackay disclosed in his figures that some hundred barristers received more than £100,000 (inclusive of VAT and travelling expenses) from civil legal aid in 1993-94. But Peter Birks, QC, of the Bar's legal aid committee, rejected the Law Society's criticisms and said that counsel's fees had to be approved by the



Byers: critic of legal aid sums going to brothers

the Serious Fraud Office, were all paid on hourly rates.

Mr Birks pointed out that of the £4 million much of the total would be disbursements, such as copying charges, fees to handwriting experts or accountants. "There is a tremendous amount of work getting a case like this to trial. It is a major undertaking, but it is in the interests of justice that these people have a fair, proper trial and are properly represented."

Several firms of lawyers are

or have been involved in preparation over the past two and a half years in the Maxwell brothers' fraud trial, including Kingsley Napley, Peters & Peters and Timmuss, Sainer & Dechert.

When it comes to trial, leading and junior counsel are likely to be briefed for each defendant. George Carman, QC, has already represented Kevin Maxwell before a parliamentary select committee.

Crown Court trials cost £7,600 a day in public funds, according to the Lord Chancellor's Department. That breaks down as £2,100 for the department's costs, including the judge, accommodation, and court staff; £2,950 in legal aid (the defence team); £1,550 for prosecution witnesses; £250 for the prison service; £300 for the probation service; £450 for the police.

John Clitheroe, of Kingsley Napley, said: "There are six defendants in this case, and the bill is shared among them. It would be very misleading to say that the £4 million applied just to Kevin and Ian Maxwell."

Although partners in City firms of solicitors normally charge in the region of £200 an hour, for criminal legal aid the rate is £54, although in difficult cases that could be almost doubled to £90. The legal aid guidelines for a brief fee for a QC are £5,400 with a refresher of £330, but it is likely that double would be charged.

Stephen Byers, Labour MP for Wallsend, a long-standing critic of the amount of legal aid going to the brothers, predicted that the final bill would top £10 million.

Law, page 34



Ian Maxwell leaving work yesterday. He and his brother Kevin will stand trial in April on fraud charges

Brothers' lives laid bare by legal legacy of father's untimely death

By JON ASHWORTH

KEVIN and Ian Maxwell must find it hard to remember what life was like before the day in November 1991 when their father's body was recovered from the sea off Tenerife. Robert Maxwell's death triggered a chain of events that led, in July 1993, to the brothers and their co-defendants being committed for trial in connection with alleged fraud involving about £305 million.

The brothers have tried to keep a low profile in the face of intense media scrutiny. Kevin, 35, who became Britain's biggest individual bankrupt in September 1992 with personal debts of £406 mil-

lion, lives with his wife and children in Moulford, Oxfordshire, in a house provided by his father-in-law.

Ian, 38, lives with his American-born wife Laura in a rented house in Islington, north London. Both work as consultants to Westbourne Communications, a Mayfair-based business consultancy run by Robert Maxwell's former aide, Jean Baddley. Ian and Laura occasionally travel to America to visit her mother. His work also takes him to Eastern Europe. Requests to travel abroad have to be cleared with the Serious Fraud Office.

Pressure on the brothers has eased since June 1992, when reporters camped outside Kevin's £14 million house in Chelsea and witnessed. When the doorbell rang early one morning, his wife Pandora leaned out of an upstairs window and shouted: "Piss off, we don't get up for another hour."



Betty Maxwell: said husband beat children

When she threatened to call the police, the two men replied: "We are the police, madam."

After being declared bankrupt he signed on at a JobCentre. Ian avoided the same fate when, in March 1993 with five minutes to spare, he paid £500,000 to the liquidators of Bishopsgate Investment Management, former manager of the Mirror Group Newspapers pen-

sion funds. The most intimate details of their lives have been laid bare. A statement of affairs by Kevin soon after his father's death listed personal possessions including a racehorse and a £25,000 Morgan car. It also referred to a £250,000 chateau in the Lot region of France.

Robert Maxwell's widow Betty, 73, has consistently scoffed at talk of a luxurious life in France and secret funds in Liechtenstein. She was forced to move out of Headington Hill Hall, the family seat near Oxford, and spent time with her sister in a suburb of Paris.

She claims to be penniless, yet emerged as the mystery benefactor who provided £900,000 towards her sons' legal bills. An attempt to sell 45 hats at auction fell flat last summer.

Her biography *A Mind Of My Own*, published last year, portrayed Robert Maxwell as a megalomaniac who beat his children and interfered with their personal lives.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Company fined over toxic gases

Toxic gases were discharged after a worker's error, Warrington magistrates were told. The gases, one of which could cause cancer, were discharged by Vinamilk, a Warrington-based subsidiary of Unilever. Vinamilk, which admitted unauthorised release of the gases and two other charges, was fined £19,000.

Prison protest

Juliet Lilley, an officer at Gloucester jail, has made an official complaint after claiming she was pinched on the bottom by a male inmate in the young offenders' wing.

Vases returned

Thieves have returned vases stolen from a chapel in Aberllynor, Mid Glamorgan, after discovering they were put there in memory of children killed in the 1906 disaster.

Police blunder

Police apologised to Bernie and Anne Walker, pensioners in Toxteth, Liverpool, after breaking into the wrong house on a dawn drugs raid. The front door is to be replaced.

Men mug boy

Two men aged about 20 robbed a nine-year-old boy outside his school in Gloucester. One man punched the boy in the stomach before they ran off with 60p.

Pirate video haul

Anti-piracy officers seized 250 video recorders and illegal copies of pornographic films, video nasties and unreleased Hollywood movies in raids on two houses in Essex.

Armagh campus

Queen's University, Belfast, is to open a campus in Armagh City next September in partnership with the district council. It will start with 100 part-time students.

Feet to the fore

Eric Cantona's football boots and the shoes in which Nelson Mandela walked to freedom have been donated to the First Steps Appeal for premature births and miscarriages.

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administration fee payable on redemption of £50.00, solicitor's mortgage charges of £100.00 and a single repayment of capital of £40,000. It assumes the mortgage starts in the middle of the month. The example also assumes a minimum guaranteed death benefit of £40,000 and a term of 25 years for the endowment policy. A last charge over your property will be required on income. For standing loans, a suitable endowment policy, PEP or pension plan will also be required. An indemnity policy, for which you will need to pay an arrangement fee, will be required where the mortgage exceeds the Society's normal maximum percentage advance. If the Mortgage is redeemed either in full, in part or transferred to another scheme before 31.12.98, a fee equivalent to 6 months' interest at the rate payable at the time of redemption will be charged. All mortgages are subject to status and valuation and a minimum age of 18. A written quotation is available on request from your local branch or from Dept 15, Woolwich Building Society Corporate HQ, Watling Street, Bewley Heath, Kent DA6 7BR

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If a product is to find a place in our homes, it must first find a place in our hearts. Such a relationship can rarely be achieved on one advertisement. The Apple Macintosh is a classic example of a product which has won an enduring place in our affections. For years its makers have used newspapers to conduct a love affair with the customer, steadily building up a relationship. A witty and charming series of advertisements have, over the years, informed, amused and won our hearts. Macintosh really can be as much a part of your life as a mate, a friend, a companion, a partner. It has its own character, values, strengths and weaknesses. All of which are strengths in evidence in this outstanding advertisement by

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John 1150

TV watchdog bans midnight feasts and jokes on overeating

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A TELEVISION watchdog have banned greed from the screen in a new set of rules designed for the age of dietary correctness. From today advertisers cannot show people gorging on chocolate bars or heaping their supermarket trolleys with them. Nor can they make jokes that belittle good nutritional practice.

Children's "midnight feasts" are also banned, on the grounds that it is unlikely the children would brush their teeth afterwards.

The new rules, published today by the Independent Television Commission, impose restrictions on the advertising of stimulating products and on health claims made for food products. Advertisements may not be directed at the obese or use case histories of fat people to make their point, nor suggest or imply that being underweight is acceptable or desirable.

The restrictions, which aim to ensure that advertising does not contribute to the spread of eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa or bulimia, put slimming products on the same basis as alcohol so far as

children are concerned. Adverts for them cannot be shown during children's programmes or those that appeal to anyone under 18.

The most controversial of the new rulings declares that advertisements "must not encourage or condone excessive consumption of any food". The ITC says that this would not prohibit shots of someone enjoying a single chocolate bar, but it would preclude a second "or consuming a whole box of chocolates at a sitting".

An advertisement that showed the comic actor Harry Enfield loading a supermarket trolley with Dime bars would now be unacceptable. Such images would only be allowed if "it was clearly established that the purchase was not for individual use".

Advertisements "must not disparage good dietary practice" and must consider oral health, particularly when addressed to children. They must not encourage frequent consumption throughout the day or depict situations where it could be assumed that teeth would not be cleaned after consumption. John Newman,

director of the Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, said yesterday: "As responsible manufacturers we would obviously encourage people to brush their teeth, but I think the guidelines go too far in restricting the use of humour. To ban what are obvious jokes is regrettable."

The National Food Alliance, however, said that the rules did not go far enough and called for a ban on advertisements for "fatty and sugary" foods when large numbers of children were likely to be watching.

"The ITC has failed to address the cumulative advertising message to children, a message that overwhelmingly portrays fatty and sugary foods as attractive and desirable food choices," Sue Dibb, project officer of the NFA, an alliance of voluntary organisations, said. "This makes progress towards the Government's national dietary targets more difficult."



Paul Davies and Tracy Scott outside the tribunal. They allege sex discrimination

Police couple claim taunts over affair ended their car

By Paul Wilkins-JV

TWO ambitious police officers claimed their careers were ruined after they began a relationship, an industrial tribunal was told. Tracy Scott, 32, an inspector with Surrey Police, said she became the subject of sniping, pestering and whispering campaigns by senior officers when she joined a course at an elite Home Office training school.

Paul Davies, 41, a married man, said he too was singled out for unfair treatment after their relationship began, the tribunal in Leeds was told yesterday. At the time Mr Davies, who was a sergeant, was separated from his wife and they have since divorced.

He and Ms Scott allege sexual discrimination by the Central Police Training Unit, the Home Office and two senior officers at the unit. Superintendent David Oakes and Chief Inspector Patrick McRory. The allegations are denied. Anthony Snelson, solicitor

for the couple, said they were "sapped of stamina and their self-belief" after allegedly being victimised by senior officers at the unit in Pannal Ash, Harrogate.

They had been seconded to the unit in March 1993 after being recommended to join a course that produces highly specialised police trainers. Mr Snelson said: "Before the course, these two people looked forward to the future full of promise and confident of gaining further advances within the force, but as a result of the victimisation they suffered, their careers are over and their confidence shattered."

Miss Scott, of Effingham, Surrey, joined the force as a constable aged 19. She is off work because of illness and has been ruled "incapable of returning to work" by a medical officer. Mr Davies, who joined the police in 1977, has retired from West Midlands Police and now lives in Harrogate.

The case continues.



Harry Enfield in an advertisement for Dime bars

Social map shows growing divide of rich and poor

A university study has found that many inner-city children are growing up in families without a wage earner. Ian Murray reports

THE class system in England is becoming more entrenched as society increasingly divides between rich and poor and north and south, according to a social atlas published today. "The divisions of wealth between rich and poor seem to be getting more marked," one of the authors, David Gordon of Bristol University, said yesterday.

The university's atlas is based on figures from the 1991 census. "We didn't find this kind of pattern in the 1981 census and from what we can see the trend seems to be accelerating," Mr Gordon, who works in the social policy department, said. "We had been led to believe that the north-south divide was disappearing."

An introduction to the atlas says England remains "a nation of immense social and economic differences" with social polarisation and traditional geographic differences. "Problems of unemployment, poverty and ill health are concentrated in the major cities, the depressed industrial North and in the forgotten corners of England."

By contrast, areas of affluence and privilege are found in the extended suburban South East. These patterns suggest a country divided, rather than at ease with itself. In parts of London, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and

Tyneside, significant proportions of children are growing up in households with no earners. High levels of youth unemployment are found in the same areas, with a pattern of unemployment and early retirement.

The heaviest concentrations of households with no earners were in inner cities, with Manchester, Liverpool, Nottingham and seven London boroughs making up the most deprived ten.

Tower Hamlets in London, where 54 per cent of households have a wage earner, was the worst off. In contrast, south Northamptonshire, Wokingham and Ribbles Valley had a salary coming into 95 per cent of households.

The atlas includes maps locating England's poor and rich. The poor are in areas of high unemployment and sickness, large numbers of unskilled workers and one parent families, and few cars or house owners. The rich live in areas where many own at least two cars and have homes with seven or more rooms. Their average salary is over £23,705 and there is a high proportion of "dinky" (dual income no kids) households. *People and Places 2: Social and economic distinctions in England* (SAUS Publications, University of Bristol, Rodney Lodge, Grange Road, Bristol BS8 4EA; £19.95)

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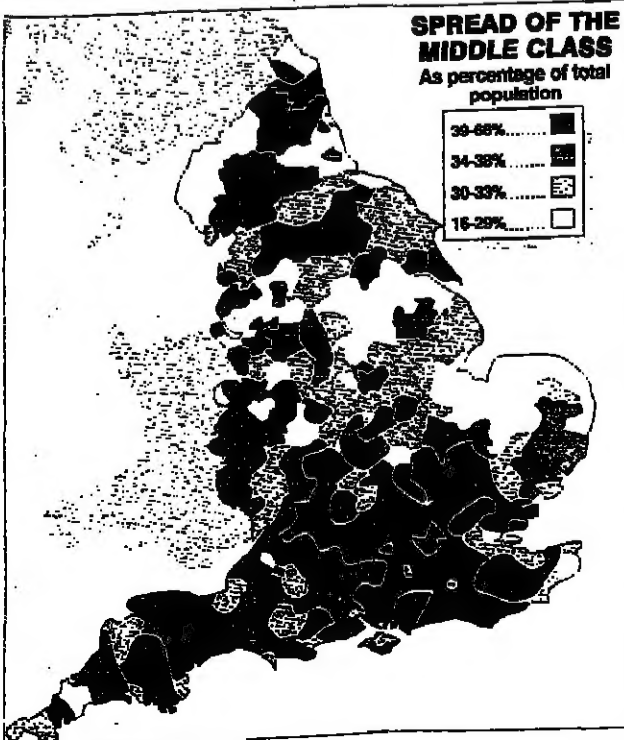
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*Survey published in The Daily Telegraph, Saturday January 7th 1995. Source: Telesure.



National report criticises poor buildings but praises 52 secondaries for improving results

Literacy standards in primary schools disturb inspectors

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST a quarter of lessons in state schools are of a poor standard, with teaching of reading and writing particularly weak at primary level, according to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector.

In his annual report published yesterday, Chris Woodhead says the education offered to children in disadvantaged areas is "bleak". He singles out the junior sector for criticism and urges teachers to employ a greater range of teaching methods instead of relying heavily on "doctrinaire" progressive techniques.

The 57-page report, an audit of the health of state education, found evidence of a slight improvement in quality as a result of government reforms such as the introduction of the national curriculum, local management of schools and the new inspection regime. However, more than half the secondary schools in England and a quarter of primaries were short of books, and poor buildings directly affected standards and the quality of teaching at one in four secondary schools, usually in science, music, PE, or technology.

Mr Woodhead, who was appointed in September, takes

the unprecedented step of identifying 52 secondary schools for public praise in recognition of their improved examination results and a positive verdict from visiting inspectors. He says the schools' achievement is a testament to teachers' dedication, commitment and expertise.

Mr Woodhead says the key to improving standards is raising teachers' expectations of pupils and ensuring children master the basics of literacy and numeracy before going to secondary school. Primary teachers should change their techniques and reduce the

number of mixed ability lessons and the amount of "topic work" that combines several subjects at once.

Inspectors found that the quality of teaching was poor in 25 per cent of lessons for children aged five to seven. The same judgment was made on 30 per cent of classes at 7-11, 19 per cent at 11-14, and 17 per cent at 14-16. Lessons were too often inadequately planned or involved content that the teacher did not fully understand.

Standards were lowest in reading and writing with significant numbers of primary children failing to master the basics. Inspectors say it is disturbing to find reading standards inadequate in one in 20 schools for pupils aged five to seven, and one in ten for those aged 7-11. The quality of writing was found to be wanting in more schools.

The report is scathing about education at the 20 per cent of schools in deprived urban areas. It says: "Less is expected of pupils. The teaching they experience is more likely to be judged unsatisfactory or poor. In addition, their own attitudes to school, behaviour and attendance often mean that



Science classes at Anfield Comprehensive, which doubled its GCSE pass rate and has since improved it again

they respond less favourably to teaching." The report calls for sustained local, institutional and national action if "real and lasting improvements are to be achieved".

Grant maintained schools performed slightly better than their local authority rivals in examinations, but the report

says this reflects the wealthier backgrounds of pupils and parents.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, said the report showed government policy was working but criticised bad teaching in the inner cities. She said: "I will not tolerate such a situation. No

child should be on the receiving end of poor teaching."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "I would like to see Mr Woodhead's inspectors come in and show my members how to succeed with the 20 per cent

of classes that just seem impossible to teach."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the report was biased because it did not refer to the rise in class sizes. The naming of improving schools encouraged parents to believe others were failing.

Children speak volumes for quiet revolution

BY KATE ALDERSON

IN THE shadow of Anfield, Liverpool FC's ground, a quiet revolution has been under way in the corridors of a secondary school once reputed to be one of the worst in the area.

Anfield Community Comprehensive School, one of the 52 comprehensives lauded yesterday as beacons of improvement, managed to double its GCSE pass rates within a year, increased its attendance rates in the face of persistent hard-core truancy, improved the fabric of the school and sharply reduced the number of expulsions.

Most impressive of all, under the leadership of Brian Boyle, the head teacher of four years' standing, many children, once disaffected and disillusioned, now look forward to school and speak highly of their "understanding and helpful" teachers.

In the first set of published league tables Anfield, with 900 pupils and 54 teaching staff, trailed nationally with only 6 per cent of fifth-formers gaining five or more GCSEs at grades A to C. The figure improved to 13.1 per cent in 1993 and last year it rose again to 18.3 per cent.

While the school's results still trail below the local authority average of 25 per cent, and its attendance rate of 91 per cent scores only a single percentage point above the Government's recommended rate, the turnaround in the school's success has impressed pupils and parents alike.

The school is set in an area that has many of the problems associated with Britain's inner city: high levels of unemployment, neglected and unimproved housing, crime and low career expectations.

Three years ago, in an attempt to encourage pupils to develop a long-term sense of pride in their school, Mr Boyle, 42, initiated a clean-up campaign, a bright new uniform designed by the pupils, a change of school name and piped music in the foyer. When he came to the school he felt there was a controlled atmosphere and a feeling among teachers that their main role was to "keep a lid on the children and their behaviour".

With the outward changes, he and a seven-member management team decided that his priority was to establish a code of conduct for pupils, greatly improve their behaviour and enhance the reputation of the school locally.

His efforts now focus on increasing the academic performance of his pupils, 50 per cent of whom resume studies in the sixth form after taking GCSEs. Many of the remainder find work in the retail sector. "We have tried to develop an ethos which values good behaviour and learning," he said. "I want students to get some sense of self-esteem and the qualifications which will lead them to a good job."

Ann Esquires, 17, a sixth-form student studying three A levels, remembers the school of old. She said: "We used to have a bad reputation but now parents are choosing to send their children here. The atmosphere has improved massively. It's not a dull place any more and the teachers, who've put in a lot of effort, make us feel important. It's a completely new school."

Kevin Hart, 12, said: "I just feel good when I walk through the school gates in the morning."

Dilapidation and dated equipment hinder learning



At a Bristol school, a bucket catches the rain

HEAVY rain brings out brightly coloured buckets in the classrooms at Christ Church Primary School in Clifton, Bristol. The flat roof, typical of schools built in the 1960s, is the cause of regular ceiling collapses.

Many of the school's window frames are rotten and the school's expensive wooden block floor lifts with the damp. A team from the Office for Standards in Education inspected the 265-pupil school last term and reported: "The very poor condition of the building provides an environment which is uncongenial to learning and teaching."

Tony Tweed, the head teacher, is increasingly frustrated by the repair bills but tries to remain pragmatic. He says: "Only the efforts of staff prevent the problems with the

Implementation of the National Curriculum is constrained by poor buildings, Ben Preston writes

building detracting from the quality of learning or standards achieved." According to the annual report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, inadequate buildings are directly affecting standards and the quality of teaching.

Christ Church, however, is an example of how a school can overcome problems. The inspectors praised it as a successful school providing good value for money, but for Mr Tweed the question remains how much better it would

do if freed from having to cope with leaks and repairs.

In his report, Mr Woodhead says that overall provision of resources is "satisfactory" and he challenges heads and governors to justify budget surpluses. But his comments on school equipment and accommodation are forthright. In many primary schools, he says, information technology equipment is "dated".

The right range and balance of resources is vital "if essential skills specified in the National Curriculum are to be developed adequately".

While accommodation has improved, he adds, some schools still have severe problems.

In about one in four secondary schools, accommodation "in one way or another" constrains the implementation of the National Curriculum. About one in five central recommendations by inspectors required capital expenditure "beyond the normal resources available to an efficiently managed school". There is no doubt, Mr Woodhead says, that good teachers can achieve a great deal in poor accommodation. "Nevertheless, problems with accommodation are affecting standards and the quality of teaching in too many secondary schools."

His comments on resources and accommodation will add fuel to

today's House of Commons debate on local government spending.

The head of a large comprehensive school announced yesterday that he was leaving the job he loves and returning to part-time teaching in protest over what he saw as the underfunding of education.

Roger Daw, the principal of the City of Ely Community College in Cambridgeshire, who has two children at university, will give up his £45,000-a-year post in the summer at the age of 51. "I could not live with my conscience any longer and keep saying everything is all right when it is not," Mr Daw said. "This is not to do with Ely or Cambridgeshire, which could not be better to work for, but children have been given a raw deal over a long period."

Traditionalist whose views belie progressive past

CHRIS WOODHEAD has risen through the ranks of the education establishment with the speed that makes enemies. "Brain surgery for primary teachers" is how one former colleague summarised the Chief Inspector's polemic against progressive teaching methods last week (Ben Preston writes).

Mr Woodhead's first annual report on the state of the education system is written with the directness of a man in a hurry to make his mark. "Don't tell me, more back to basics," a chief education officer for a large education authority said as he passed journalists leaving yesterday's press conference.

The suspicion — and for some, the bitterness — aroused by Mr Woodhead is rooted in the curriculum vitae of a pouter-nosed gamekeeper. He is a former English teacher, local authority inspector and chief education officer, jobs regarded by Conservative backbenchers as the preserve of educational progressives. He graduated from Bristol and Keele universities in the 1960s after attending a London grammar school.

Mr Woodhead, 48, became



Woodhead: challenging 'culture of complacency'

deputy chief executive of the Government's curriculum watchdog in 1991, taking the top job within a year.

He first came to prominence in the debate over the restoration of formal teaching methods in primary schools three years ago. He was one of the "three wise men" picked by Kenneth Clarke, Education Secretary at the time, to conduct an independent inquiry. The report concluded that the progress of primary pupils was hampered by "highly questionable dogmas" that led to excessively complex classroom practices. Reliance on topic work rather than tackling one subject at a time led to fragmentary and superficial teaching, it said. But just as pressure for change in primaries appeared to be building, the teachers' boycott of national tests turned attention away from the issue.

As head of a non-ministerial government department with a budget of more than £70 million, Mr Woodhead is determined to challenge what he regards as the complacent culture of the profession. Teachers' devotion to questionable classroom techniques is firmly on the educational agenda now industrial action over testing has ended.

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Labour promises day care from 3

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

LABOUR tried yesterday to trump the Government's promise of pre-school education for every four year old with a plan to offer all-day care from the age of three.

An inquiry chaired by Margaret Hodge, MP for Barking, is to produce a framework combining a range of services for young children. Free nursery education would be offered for all three and four year olds, where possible in centres providing supervision throughout the day.

David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, said parents would pay for day care unless they qualified for welfare benefits. A new system would embrace playgroups and private nurseries, includ-

ing some that were run by companies for their staff.

Mr Blunkett challenged Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, to announce the Government's plans. At last year's Conservative party conference, John Major promised to expand nursery provision during the present Parliament in an initiative leading to the offer of a place for every four year old. Proposals are still being developed by an inter-departmental taskforce.

Mr Blunkett said access to nursery provision had become a lottery. In some areas the education authority provided pre-school places for 90 per cent of the population, in others only 22 per cent.

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150 من 150

Nuclear power reaches crossroads at Sizewell

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN's latest and possibly last nuclear power station was switched on yesterday by Lord Wakeham, leader of the House of Lords and a former Energy Secretary.

Nuclear Electric, the state-run company that owns Sizewell B, said the arrival of the station, which at full power will provide electricity for up to 1.5 million people, was a testament to the engineering skills of its workforce.

Sizewell B, which has cost £2.03 billion and has a dome bigger than that of St Paul's Cathedral, will, the company claims, cut emissions of carbon dioxide by about 300 million tonnes. Dr Robert Hawley, the company's chief executive, said: "I believe that Sizewell B is undoubtedly a world-class design and one that we intend to exploit in the growing global market for nuclear power stations. We are in a very strong position to win a tender in Taiwan."

Whether Sizewell B will be the first of a new generation of British reactors or the last of its kind is likely to depend on the outcome of the Govern-

ment's long delayed review of the nuclear industry, which is expected in March. Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear have been lobbying fiercely for privatisation and have made great efficiency strides.

If another power station is to be built in Britain it will be called Sizewell C. Nuclear Electric recently unveiled plans to build a sister PWR on the same site in Suffolk. It

would be twice the size of the one switched on yesterday and, by being in the same location, could win planning permission faster.

But the industry is having to resolve a string of issues, including the costs of decommissioning old stations, the disposal of nuclear waste, and the huge subsidy it enjoys, amounting to nearly 10 per cent of consumers' bills. With-

out the subsidy, critics argue, the industry would be broke.

Greenpeace said the opening "represents the beginning of the end for British nuclear power. For the first time in 40 years no nuclear reactors are now under construction."

Dr Tom Weyman-Jones, an economist specialising in energy at Loughborough University, believes Sizewell B is unlikely to signal the end. In the past few weeks the price of electricity has hit record levels as the non-nuclear generators, National Power and PowerGen, suddenly raised their prices because of energy shortages. The electricity regulator has set an average pool price of 2.4p a unit but there have been recent peaks of 6.5p a unit caused by two nuclear stations closing for repairs.

Dr Weyman-Jones said that forthcoming European Union legislation on emissions would raise the cost of coal-fired electricity, the market nuclear is challenging. "Nuclear has gone through a real trough in the past ten years but it is far from written off," he said.

PIONEERING PLANT

□ Sizewell B is the first Pressurised Water Reactor to be built in Britain and the first nuclear unit to be linked to the national grid since 1989.

□ It will supply 1,188 megawatts of power a day — enough for 1.5 million people.

□ Planning consent was sought in 1981 and the public inquiry, which began two years later, lasted 340 days — the longest yet.

□ The station has a life span of 40 years and will use 30 tonnes of uranium a year. Waste will be burnt or sent to Drigg in Cumbria for land storage. More deadly waste, which could be radioactive for thousands of years, may be stored on site at Sizewell or sent to Sellafield, Cumbria, where an underground repository is likely to be built.

□ More than 5,000 workers helped to build the station. It will have a full-time staff of 350.

□ More than 750,000 gallons of sea water will flow through the power station every minute, equivalent to the Thames flowing through the system every two weeks.

□ Sizewell B is the 35th nuclear reactor unit in Britain.



Sizewell B, which might yet be joined by a third plant on the Suffolk site

Reactor's designers wait to learn fate

By NICK NUTTALL

THE prospects of another nuclear power station being built will rest on the Government's review of the industry, to be published in March. It might also depend on whether Nuclear Electric can sell its Sizewell design abroad.

A spokesman for the company admitted yesterday that without another order the design team might have to be split and reassigned.

Selling the Sizewell design will be hard as worldwide the nuclear industry fights to restore its post-Chernobyl image in the face of anti-nuclear groups in most developed countries. Electricity production has also changed in favour of lower-risk ventures, as state monopolies are broken into commercial components.

In the United States and Australia no nuclear stations have been built since 1979. The best export hopes are countries with fast-growing economies and populations or few natural energy resources, such as Taiwan, with which Nuclear Electric hopes to sign a contract.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer North

Love all, IMPs

♠A1097	♥A97	♦1065	♣K97
♦Q8842	♥—	♠KJ83	♥Q10853
♥—	♠QJ82	♥K4	♦Q8
♠AJ102	♥—	♠—	♥KJ842
			♠A973
			♠8543

W	N	E	S
Mari	Chagas	Chemla	Lambardi
1♠	Pass	Pass	1♥(1)
Pass	2♠(2)	4♠	Pass
	Dble	All pass	

Contract: 4♠ Doubled by West. Opening lead: ♥A

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

(1) Third in hand, players often open light if they have a reasonable suit.

(2) Showing a constructive heart raise.

On this hand from the Macallan tournament Christian Mari (who with Chemla eventually finished sixth) made a contract that looked doomed. Chagas led the ace of hearts and Mari ruffed to lead a diamond to the king and ace.

South returned a diamond. Mari now led a trump to the king, discovering he had two trump losers, and then played the queen of clubs from the dummy.

Zia has a BOLS tip which is, if they don't cover they haven't got it. As Mari once got locked up on a slow boat to Vigo with

Zia (and me) he has clearly absorbed that lesson, and so when South played low on the queen of clubs Mari assumed the king was with North. He put on the ace, threw a club on the jack of diamonds, and took a ruffing finesse in clubs through North. Having taken two diamond tricks, two club tricks and the king of spades, he then cross-ruffed to make five more tricks, and his contract.

There was a triumph for the four-card major system of Forrester and Robson on the board. Robson opened One Spade as North. Forrester responded INT, and neither opponent could compete in the spade suit. Forrester tells me that stealing the opponents' major suit in this way occurs surprisingly often with the method.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Computer breakthrough

Although computers have scored some notable triumphs against grandmasters, the achievement of the silicon brains has to be viewed in perspective. When the Pentium Genius defeated Garry Kasparov, the world champion, in London last summer, the computer's triumph was tempered by the fact that the game was played at a very fast time limit. In a



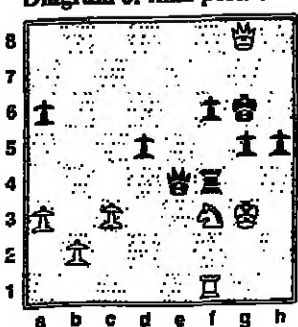
Kasparov: hi-tech defeat

recent tournament in Germany, however, a computer broke the barrier of competing under classical chess conditions. The Fritz3 program, operating on a Pentium processor, scored an international master performance. The following game, with its theme of sacrifice and counter-sacrifice, was typical of the fine chess it produced.

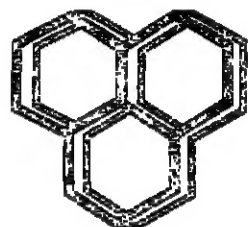
White: Fritz3
Black: Glek
Bad Godesberg, January 1995
Sicilian Defence

3 d4	d5
4 exd5	exd5
5 Nf3	a6
6 Be2	Nf6
7 dxc5	Bxc5
8 O-O	h6
9 Nbd2	O-O
10 Nb3	Bb5
11 Re1	Ne6
12 Nbd4	Re8
13 Kf3	Qd6
14 Be3	Ba7
15 g4	Rxe8
16 Nf5	Qf4
17 Nxe3	Bxe3
18 fxe3	Og3+
19 Kh1	Ne4
20 Rf1	Oxf3+
21 Nxc3	Oxf3+
22 Bf3	Ng3+
23 Kg2	Nf1
24 Nd1	Og5+
25 Kh1	Rd8
26 Qb3	Ne6
27 Nh2	Nd3
28 Nd3	Oh5+
29 Kg2	Rd6
30 Qxb7	Rf6
31 Qb8+	Kh7
32 Rf1	Of5
33 Qh2	Qe4
34 Qh3	Rf4
35 Kg3	f6
36 a3	g5
37 Qd7+	Kg6
38 Qc8	h5
39 Qg8+	Kh6
40 Qh8+	Kg6
41 Qg8+	Kh6
42 Qh8+	Kg6
43 Qg8+	draw agreed

Diagram of final position



Winning Move, page 44



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Tighten the rules but not too much, Nolan inquiry told

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

GREATER restrictions on the employment of former ministers could leave them in a "black hole" where they might find it difficult to support their families, the Nolan inquiry was told yesterday.

Tony Newton, leader of the Commons and the first serving government minister to give evidence to the inquiry, said that if the rules were too stringent they would lead not to a raising of standards in public life but to a reduction in the quality of those willing to seek office. He also made it clear that he thought MPs would not accept scrutiny of their conduct by an independent authority.

Mr Newton, who said he was not speaking on behalf of the Government, expressed concern at the suggestion that former ministers should face similar restrictions to civil servants on leaving office. Senior civil servants have to seek approval before taking up a sensitive post within two years of leaving the service.

Mr Newton did not refer directly to the row last week over the appointment of Lord Wakeham as a non-executive director at the merchant bankers N.M. Rothschild, but he said that unlike a career in the Civil Service, which was "a secure pension" leading to a good pension, politics was an "inherently insecure" way of life. Ministers could find themselves out of office and

out of Parliament at very short notice.

"If you get the rules wrong in terms of what you may do after being a minister, you would inhibit people becoming a minister whatever the pay, because of the risk they might find themselves in a sort of black hole on ceasing to be a minister or even an MP."

He added: "I believe there is a risk that if we get the balance wrong in any new rules you impose, it will further increase the reluctance of people to become MPs at all, when taken in combination with other things like exposure to publicity and the nature of the job. The end result we would get would not be an improvement in the standard of public life but a reduction in the quality of people prepared to go into it at all."

While most of the evidence the Nolan committee has heard in its first two weeks has favoured an independent element in scrutinising the conduct of MPs, Mr Newton took a different view. Asked by Lord Nolan whether it was right that MPs should effectively act as prosecutor, judge, jury and executioner in their own cases, Mr Newton said that the idea of an outside official or body ruling on the ethics of the behaviour of MPs was "extremely sensitive".

Supporting the principle of self-regulation, Mr Newton said: "It would be quite strong-

ly felt that these are decisions that should be taken by the House. If you get into a position where pressure could be put on MPs, for whatever reason, by people threatening to refer them to some person designated over Parliament, over MPs' financial interests and the like, it might cause problems."

Mr Newton also defended the principle of lobbying, which he feared was in danger of becoming a pejorative word. "We are talking about representations that are part and parcel of our democratic process," he said.

He was immediately contradicted by the journalist Adam Raphael, who told the committee that there was a case "for a form of Ombudsman" to be involved in investigating MPs' interests. "My own view is that the House of Commons has proved unable to reform itself, and the need for reform is very urgent. I believe there has to be an outside element."

The committee later took its first evidence about the Civil Service from Sir Peter Kemp, the former second permanent secretary to the Cabinet. He said that concern about political bias in the £2,000 or so appointments now made to quangos by or on behalf of ministers could easily be dispelled. "All posts should be openly advertised and appointed by a public service commission of some kind."



Party divide on Europe narrower than either side would admit

Should pro-Europeans vote Labour at the next election? The positions of the main parties have changed radically since Enoch Powell urged voters to back Labour in February 1974 after standing down as a Tory MP largely because of entry into the European Community.

His Tory successor in Wolverhampton South-West, elected with a much reduced majority then, was ironically the Euro-sceptic Nicholas Budge. Mr Powell's view can now be turned on its head. The contrast between the more sceptical stance of the Major Government and the pro-European position of Labour was noted by Geoffrey Howe on Monday. Lord Howe would certainly not urge anyone to vote Labour. But Tory pro-Europeans could face a dilemma as acute as opponents of Britain's entry had in 1974.

Both main parties are magnifying their differences, while taking up detailed positions not that far apart. While John Major has raised the flag as defender of British national interests and Parliament against further incursions from Brussels, Tony Blair, particularly on the single currency. Moreover, Labour's policies on, for instance, fundamental reform of the common agricultural policy are not shared by European socialists. Mr Blair's office and Pauline Green, leader of the parliamentary group of European socialists, yesterday quickly distanced themselves from a working paper discussing the end of the national veto on treaty changes.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

On Monday, Mr Cook stressed Labour's support for the retention of the veto on matters of vital national interest, the Budget and treaty revisions. This is the Tory position. Both main parties also favour inter-governmental co-operation on foreign and defence policy, as backed two days ago by Malcolm Rifkind. Even on a single currency, differences between Labour and Tory are not that far apart, even if Michael Portillo disagrees with both on this issue.

The Government position is still that the opt-out permits Parliament to take a decision on British participation if and when necessary, while Labour's support for a single currency is not unconditional. It depends on a convergence in growth and employment, as well as financial factors.

Yet the contrast in rhetoric does matter. The Tory mood is undeniably more sceptical than it was, while Labour is clearly more enthusiastic. Both parties are, of course, split more than Tory MPs voted against the Maastricht Bill. But, in the main, Labour anti-Europeans are from the older generation or the isolated hard-Left, while Tory sceptics are strongest among younger MPs and are in the mainstream.

Although the differences in practice on European policies between a Major and a Blair Government might be much less than either would claim, the shift in the balance of the two parties is real. Whereas Labour Euro-enthusiasts were in a minority in the early 1970s — many leaving to form the SDP in 1981 — so now the committed pro-Europeans in the Tory party are anxious and on the defensive.

PETER RIDDELL

Hurd to deny Lockerbie cover-up

By Jill Sherman

DOUGLAS HURD will strongly deny today that the Foreign Office is trying to conceal evidence that could help to identify those behind the Lockerbie bombing.

The Foreign Secretary will take the unusual step of replying to an adjournment debate in which Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow, will challenge him over recent allegations that there was Iranian and Syrian involvement. Mr Dalyell will ask whether the Crown Office

or the Procurator Fiscal have instructed the police to investigate the allegations, and if not, why not.

The Government has been criticised by some MPs over its handling of the investigation. It contends that the bomb that blew up a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie in December 1988, killing 270 people, was planted by two Libyan intelligence officers at Malta.

Today Mr Hurd will tell MPs that there has been no

cover-up. He will emphasise that it is important for any new evidence to be investigated. However, he is also expected to make clear that both the British and the Americans think little new has come out of the recent reports from America that there was Iranian involvement. He will say that both governments are working hard to bring the Libyans to trial but will disclose that negotiations have been unsuccessful so far.

Redwood unveils green action plan

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

JOHN REDWOOD, the Welsh Secretary, announced a green agenda for Wales yesterday.

Mr Redwood angered environmentalists and naturalists last month when he put forward budget cuts for the Countryside Council for Wales, the principal nature conservation body. Yesterday, however, he said: "I see the council continuing to play a vital role in protecting and conserving Welsh environment."

He is understood to be seeking greater efficiency by cutting overheads, some research work and grants to voluntary organisations. He also wants some of the conservation burden to be shared with local authorities.

Mr Redwood set out plans for more forestry in Wales to help to cut Britain's timber imports, and for the development of reclaimed rather than greenfield land.

Beckett condemns 'profit from sickness and disease'

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

LABOUR accused the Government yesterday of openly pursuing the privatisation and commercialisation of the National Health Service.

Margaret Beckett, Shadow Health Secretary, said: "There is today a threat to the sheer existence of the NHS. The threat shows in the stark evidence that the NHS is being privatised by stealth before our eyes and the only people who aren't supposed to be in on the secret are the people of Britain."

Launching a debate in the Commons on the health service, Mrs Beckett said: "Ministers have already fragmented the service into almost 500 individual businesses, competing for the profits to be made from sickness and disease."

Several Tory MPs chided her for making a 54-minute speech that avoided any mention of Labour's policies on health, but she continued: "The Government is intent on fragmenting the service and, through failure to plan, through destructive competition and profound demoralisation within the NHS, they intend that the NHS shall no longer play the major role in maintaining the nation's health."

Mrs Beckett cited a series of recent hospital scandals, including the discovery of a patient's corpse under piping at St Thomas's hospital in London and the Truro baby who had a hypodermic needle left inside him, to prove that there was "decay and decline" in the NHS.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, accused

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY, in the Commons, questions to the Defence Minister and the Prime Minister were followed by a debate on the health service, opened by the Opposition on the "threat to the existence of the NHS" resulting from government policies.

There was also a debate on the Police Grant Report.

In the Lords, there was a debate on the Environment Bill.

TODAY, in the Commons, MPs will sit at 10am with backbench debates until 2.30pm. These will be followed by Foreign Office questions and a debate on the English Revenue Support Grant reported by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary.

In the Lords, there will be debates on juvenile crime and on the role of the Civil Service.

Mrs Beckett, whose speech relied extensively on press articles, of sounding like a cuttings library. Mrs Bottomley said: "As ever, we have this endless smear — innuendo about privatisation. We are proud of the changes we have set in hand. We are proud of the extra money we have put into the NHS. And we are proud of the achievements of staff. If anyone can speak as the guardian of the NHS, it is we on this side of the House who have run it for twice as long as Labour."

To Tory cheers, she said: "After the last general election Labour found themselves out on their Jennifer's ear and they still haven't learnt their lesson. People want progress in the NHS, not the protest from the party opposite."

Mrs Bottomley praised the new Patient's Charter, launched two weeks ago, for making the NHS accountable to the patients. "For Labour accountability is something you talk about at Islington dinner parties. Power is what you give to the trade unions," she said.

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Rao sits out

British minister to meet leader of East Timor rebels

By DAVID WATTS

FOR the first time since the Indonesians occupied East Timor in 1975, a British minister is to meet the leader of the resistance's political wing in an attempt to persuade President Suharto to loosen his grip on the territory.

The British Government has always taken a sympathetic view of Jakarta's annexation of the former Portuguese territory not least because of the lucrative arms trade which has included the sale of dozens of British Aerospace Hawk aircraft and armour. But when José Ramos Horta, co-chairman of the National Council of the Timorese Resistance, meets Alistair Goodlad, Minister of State responsible for Far Eastern Affairs, tomorrow it will be confirmation that patience over Indonesia's refusal to compromise, despite years of United Nations entreaties, is rapidly running out.

It has not gone unnoticed that while the Indonesian Government sent peacekeeping troops to join the UN operation in Cambodia, it has not been willing to solve its own similarly longstanding problem.

Mr Horta said that it was not credible that Britain would stop selling arms to Indonesia. They have done much worse elsewhere such as selling arms to the Iraqis, but they want to

push for a settlement now," he said. He is canvassing for autonomy for the territory and its 800,000 inhabitants.

"It's not that we have an ideological mind-set but we know that people will not accept special status... Indonesia has to do much more to overcome the 20 years of barbarism."

So far America, Britain and Australia, the nations behind the current diplomatic drive, will go no further than discussing a special status for the territory at the eastern extremity of the world's largest archipelago.

The initiative coincides with a hearing before the International Court of Justice in The Hague in which Portugal, the former colonial power, is contesting the legality of treaties between Australia and Indonesia on exploitation of the vast oil resources under the Timor Sea. Lisbon claims the Indonesians had no legal right to enter into a treaty involving a territory whose possession is not recognised by the UN. If the court finds the treaties invalid it will further undermine Jakarta's position.

The Indonesians will countenance no substantial change in their military presence in East Timor. This amounts to between seven and 13 battalions and several thousand Timorese conscripts. Jakarta

claims the lower figure is accurate, but the scale of their presence can be judged from the presence of three colonels, 46 lieutenant-colonels and 11 majors in Military Region 9 which covers East Timor, according to an order of battle drawn up by the command last spring.

A military map captured when an Indonesian sergeant was killed recently shows that military units are stationed near every clutch of settlements at the eastern end of the territory, despite a level of military activity which is only a fraction of what it was, particularly since the capture and imprisonment of Xanana Gusmao, the leader of the East Timorese guerrilla fighters.

The failure to resolve the conflict has cost Indonesia dear as a supposed leader of the less-developed nations. There is speculation that the problem has become particularly contentious in the context to succeed Mr Suharto among the senior levels of the Indonesian Army.

This may explain how Mr Xanana was able to smuggle out of prison a letter to President Clinton during last year's summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum in Jakarta and two interviews in Indonesian which were broadcast into the country by Radio Nederland.



Guided by a city official, centre, Emperor Akihito inspects earthquake damage in Kobe with Empress Michiko

Kobe gives emperor a cool reception

FROM REUTERS IN KOBE

KOBE gave Emperor Akihito a generally cool reception yesterday when he visited the port city two weeks after more than 5,000 people perished in the earthquake. Japan's worst postwar disaster.

Some refugees said the trip had been organised to defuse public anger over the initial slow response of the Government to the January 17 tragedy that left 270,000 people homeless. Others blamed the

Emperor for the quake's high toll in the slums of Kobe after his failure to end discrimination against the poor.

"The Emperor should use his head," said one shopkeeper who lost one of her two stores. "He's being used by politicians and isn't going to accomplish anything by coming here."

The arrival of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in Kobe coincided with temperatures of -2C (28F), the coldest weather since the earthquake. Not all Kobe people were critical of the imperial

visit. "After about ten days, people were starting to get sick of watching pictures of Kobe at home," said Hideo Wong, 38, a grocer. "But the Emperor's visit has drawn attention back here, and if that helps the relief effort, then it's a good thing."

Haruo Akira, 28, a construction worker, also praised the trip. "The Emperor is still very important in Japan and his visit here today is giving some people the spirit to continue and rebuild their lives," he said.

Japanese MPs fight Diet war apology

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

MORE than 100 conservative MPs in Japan formed a council yesterday to oppose an apology by the Diet, or parliament, to countries that suffered at the hands of the Japanese Army in the Second World War.

The creation of the council came as a British-led mission of former POWs left Tokyo yesterday after suing the Japanese Government for compensation. The former prisoners have demanded a full written apology and "token compensation" of £14,000 each for trauma suffered in Japanese prison camps.

The 143 MPs belong to the Liberal Democratic Party, the largest and most conservative member of the three-party ruling coalition. At the council's inaugural meeting, the MPs said the apology would lead to a flood of compensation claims and encourage a distorted view of history.

The proposed apology was agreed last June between leaders of the LDP and the two other ruling parties, the Socialists and New Party Sakigake. Such a resolution, they said, would be appropriate to mark the 50th anniversary this August of the end of the war. Tomiichi Murayama, the Prime Minister, supports the Diet apology, as does Wataru Kubo, the secretary-general of the Socialists, who says the resolution should express strong remorse.

US experts fear China's collapse when Deng dies

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA after Deng Xiaoping could come under the rule of a nationalistic strongman, collapse or split into regions. The possibility of a liberal democracy is small. These are the conclusions of a recently declassified study commissioned by the US Defense Department, which gives a warning that "China is up for grabs once Deng passes away."

The report by American academics postulates "a 50-50 chance that China would disintegrate under a post-Deng discredited leadership and internal conflict. Power in general will gravitate away from the centre."

The study differs from others which hold that what Peking terms the "collective leadership" with President Jiang Zemin as the core will be able to control China. Such studies attempt to resolve a paradox, unique in Chinese history, of a socially and economically turbulent China with a stable leadership. They describe a leadership of mediocre men, with no revolutionary charisma and little experience outside the party's eternal manoeuvring, who contrive to stay in power and maintain the reforms by Mr Deng in 1979.

The Defense Department study, by contrast, says there is "no apparent internal bal-

ance of political forces and Deng's death will create a political vacuum for both conservatives and reformers to move in". It argues that the present, collective leadership may last no more than a year or two.

This scenario suggests that an emergent and powerful nationalistic leader, who may not be supported by the military, could threaten Taiwan, and the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, the sovereignty of which is under contention by at least five South-East Asian powers, and would impose discipline on Hong Kong, the management of which after 1997, has been committed for trial on a charge of threatening the Prince with unlawful violence. (Reuters)

The authors foresee another possibility: a break-up into regions of varying economic strength and independence, with a relatively powerless centre, and criminal gangs playing an increasingly visible role.

Although they would not say so openly, Peking's leaders would probably agree with this uneasy and variable forecast. They constantly draw attention to the narrow dividing line keeping China from instability and even chaos, and point to peasant and worker dissatisfaction, the growth of criminal gangs, and the destabilising effects of the regions, which are jockeying for autonomy.

Hardly a day passes without the nation being told to rally around Mr Jiang, who is constantly appearing with army units, peasant and worker associations, and senior bureaucrats, as if campaigning for the supreme authority he claims to hold already.

Attempts to reassure the people that Mr Deng is not near death give the impression of a leadership uncertain of its strength without the presence, no matter how feeble, of the man who appointed them.



Jiang Zemin: claims to hold supreme authority

Rao sits out crisis in silence

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S reclusive Prime Minister, P.V. Narasimha Rao, is hardening a worsening political crisis with techniques that have served him extraordinarily well in a lifetime of politics: taking frequent afternoon naps, staying silent, issuing no statements, avoiding the press and appealing to do nothing.

Many plots to oust him have been frustrated by his refusal to enter combat. In recent weeks, ministers have quit and been sacked amid scandals and intrigue while Mr Rao has said nothing in public. He holds more than a dozen portfolios, including defence, industry, space and

rural development, thus retaining phenomenal power. The files grow ever higher in his office but he is adamant he will read and sign only a certain number every day.

Mr Rao has held one press conference during his four-year tenure, and he rarely gives interviews.

He took the rare step a week ago of dealing decisively with a leadership rival, Arjun Singh, by suspending him from the primary membership of the governing Congress party, despite the dangers of again splitting the 109-year-old organisation. He calculated, correctly, that Mr Singh was blustering and

would be unable to muster the support to retaliate. Yesterday he gave Mr Singh more time to answer charges of anti-party activities by extending the deadline to Monday.

Important state elections this month and early in March could be decisive for Mr Rao's future. Crushing defeats in polls last December in two key states in the south, where the party is strongest, weakened him. The next round of elections will include the state of Maharashtra, the nation's economic heartland, where defeat would be shattering. Opinion polls suggest that no party will win an outright majority.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prisoners in Italy 'at risk'

Strasbourg: A report published by the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture claims that people detained in Italy, notably foreigners and drug offenders, run a "not negligible" chance of mistreatment in Italian jails.

The report, by a delegation that visited 14 prisons in Milan, Naples and Rome, also attacks "inhuman conditions" in some jails that can only aggravate matters. (AFP)

Trial ordered

Sydney: David Kang, 24, who allegedly attacked the Prince of Wales with a blank-firing pistol last year, has been committed for trial on a charge of threatening the Prince with unlawful violence. (Reuters)

Airport grant

Manila: Britain is to provide a £4.2 million grant to help improve security at Manila airport in the Philippines to allow it to meet standards set by the International Air Traffic Association. (AFP)

Bolger invited

Wellington: Jim Bolger, the New Zealand Prime Minister, has been invited to the White House ten years after Washington ended top-level relations over Wellington's anti-nuclear stance. (AFP)

Sound offence

Stockholm: The appeal of John Asotius, 41, against his conviction for shooting nine dark-skinned foreigners, one of whom died, was interrupted after he attacked his lawyers with a tape recorder. (AP)

Snappy dresser

Madrid: A Spaniard travelling from Cuba who tried to smuggle into Spain a live 2ft baby crocodile and a 2ft baby caiman hidden in his jacket lining was arrested at Madrid-Barajas airport. (AFP)

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Netherlands battles to save lives and homes as torrents cause havoc across northern Europe



Life line: residents of the twin villages of Arcen and Velden in The Netherlands forming a human chain yesterday to reinforce dykes with sandbags along the river Maas near the border with Germany

Dutch flee villages in greatest flood escape for 40 years

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN NIJMEGEN

THE evacuation of 85,000 people has left the small communities in the Dutch province of Gelderland like ghost towns.

By noon yesterday, only 45 villagers were left in this small eastern region. They were refusing to follow the evacuation orders and refusing to believe that the dykes could ever break over them and unleash a torrent that would leave an area of almost 400 sq miles under water.

In Druenen, a village on the south bank of the river Waal, the silence was broken occasionally by the sound of a helicopter hovering above on the lookout for looters.

In four hours yesterday morning, Dutch police and troops carried out the largest evacuation in The Netherlands since the 1953 floods. In the lowlands to the west of Nijmegen, the people spent

most of the previous night packing and trying to lift their furniture to the upper floors of their little houses. At 8am yesterday they were told to get out by noon. Tens of thousands of people got into their cars with their families and their belongings, and then onto the narrow country roads, causing massive traffic jams.

Bram Verneulen, 20, who lives with his parents in the village of Wamel, was among the evacuees. "Our house has wooden floors. We put almost everything upstairs, but we had to leave the sofa in the hall, because it was too big," he said. "The parents of my girlfriend — they are not from here but The Hague — were very afraid. There comes a moment when you have to leave home, when you have to

leave something behind. They couldn't save the piano. The mother of my girlfriend was crying. They then went to The Hague."

GERMANY

FROM ROGER BOYES IN COLOGNE

GERMANY'S flooded cities and villages yesterday enjoyed a brief respite from the rain that has swollen rivers and sent muddy water surging into tens of thousands of houses. But a new danger was emerging: as the temperatures swiftly dropped, there was the prospect of the slurry freezing. "Overnight the mud could well turn into a kind of cement," said Uta Krenelmeier, who is leading the mopping-up effort in Rolandsbeck on the Rhine. In Cologne, the wooden gangways connecting houses have become treacherous; children are slipping on the icy surfaces and plunging into the flooded streets.

Many people, like Klaus Krämer, a bar manager, were facing a cold and difficult night. For two days, he had been crouched up near the rafters of his Cologne pub guarding the liquor from boat-borne looters. The electricity has been cut off and the oil heater has begun to leak, adding to the stench and the misery. He said: "We would



normally have done a thriving business — there is an international sweet manufacturers' congress in town and the delegates would always pack our place out."

A Cabinet session today may set aside some modest emergency aid, but Bonn's main reaction has been to send in the army.

Cologne yesterday looked as if it was under martial law. Soldiers paddled through the streets of the Old Town district, delivering food, blankets and medicines and also functioning as an unofficial taxi service for stranded workers.

FRANCE

FROM SUSAN BELL IN CHARLEVILLE-MÉZIÈRES

EDOUARD BALLADUR, the French Prime Minister, yesterday visited Charleville-Mézières, one of the towns hardest hit by the floods that have swept northern France leaving 15 dead, 14 injured and

five missing. The flooding, which in many areas is the worst in memory, has affected almost half the country, with 43 départements partly submerged. Forty thousand homes are under water and 5,000 people have been evacuated. Ironically, 233,000 homes are without water.

As the Government prepares to declare a state of natural catastrophe to facilitate compensation, M. Balladur faces growing criticism from flood victims who are angry that money was not spent earlier on preventative measures. In Charleville-Mézières, the Meuse was expected to rise to 21ft last night.

Claudette Henriot, 50, was rescued with her husband yesterday morning from the couple's first-floor flat. "We were trapped in our home. The ground floor was completely submerged. Outside, the water came up to my chest. I have never seen anything like this," she said.

Photograph, page 22

Debate hots up on threat from global warming

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE downpours that have led to flooding over Europe have been caused by depressions from the Atlantic bringing rains and milder weather.

A spokesman for the Meteorological Office in Bracknell, Berkshire, said yesterday: "In a normal winter these weather fronts would affect us, but they have been pushed further into Europe. The higher temperatures have melted ice and are filling rivers."

The exact cause of the unusual weather, which has lifted the Rhine to its highest level in nearly 70 years, is likely to trigger a furious debate between scientists, environmentalists and politicians over whether man-made global warming has finally taken effect.

Computer models on the theory, which is linked to the build-up of gases from power stations and traffic in the atmosphere, indicate that not only will temperatures rise but that the weather will become more violent and unseasonal.

Over the past 12 months, campaigners warning of the dangers of global warming can point to a string of weather and natural observations to support their claims. The past eight out of ten years have been the warmest on record around the world, with temperatures in November in Britain the highest since 1659 when records were first kept.

The World Meteorological Office (WMO) in Switzerland said: "Above-normal temperatures spread from the southwest at the end of June 1994 and initiated one of the hottest spells that have ever afflicted Central Europe. July was the

hottest calendar month registered since the beginning of regular weather observations at several sites, including Hamburg."

The unusual weather conditions harmed agriculture, and triggered regional water shortages and fires in countries including Spain and Poland. They also led to smog alerts in Britain and Germany, the WMO said.

It emerged yesterday that tests carried out on the world's oldest tree, a huon pine, which has been found in northwestern Tasmania, indicate that the past 30 years have been the warmest for two millennia.

Dr Ed Cook, a timber-dating specialist at Columbia University in New York, said

ENVIRONMENT

that analysis of the tree's trunk rings had provided a temperature record for the past 3,800 years.

"Since the early 1960s it has been unusually warm and we have to go back 2,000 years to find a period of comparable warmth."

"In the past 3,800 years there has been only one other 30-year period that has been warmer than today's period," he said.

Sir Crispin Tickell, Warden of Green College, Oxford, and a member of the Prime Minister's environment panel, said yesterday: "The truth is that there is no conclusive proof about man-made global warming, but there is an accumulation of evidence."

Some scientists believe that sulphur from industrial pollu-

tion may have offset global warming by artificially cooling the earth and that this effect is on the wane as northern countries cut back on acid emissions from power stations.

Scientists who support the theory of global warming contend that the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines in 1991 pumped enough dust into the air to offset pollution-induced rises in temperature. Researchers, including those at the Meteorological Office, have predicted that a rise seen since 1982 but halted in the early 1990s would return in 1994-5. "And to add behold it has," said Sir Crispin.

A spokesman for the Meteorological Office agreed, but added that some of the warming in 1994 may have also been due to the so-called El Niño effect, in which ocean movements in the Pacific have warmed the Indian Ocean and western North America, affecting worldwide weather patterns.

David Lindis, director of the World Weather Watch which is part of the WMO, said yesterday that it was impossible to say whether the globe was in the grip of man-made warming or the world was in a natural weather cycle that stretches back thousands of years.

"One of the things scientists have been very reluctant to do is pin a date to when global warming will occur. But what most scientists do agree is that if we are to continue to do some of the things we are still doing we will enter into a global warming state," Mr Lindis said.

Russia rebukes US over hostile Congress

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA gave America notice yesterday that the two former superpower rivals could be plunged back into a Cold War unless Washington halted its anti-Russian campaign.

In an unexpected outburst, the Russian Foreign Ministry accused the new right-wing Congress of destabilising the already uneasy relationship between Washington and Moscow. "The confrontational outburst in the US Congress is fraught with the danger of

seriously complicating our relations and does not reflect the national interests of the United States itself," said Grigori Karasin, the Foreign Ministry spokesman.

It was not clear what provoked the Russian warning, although Moscow has been on edge since the right-wing Newt Gingrich became the House Speaker and the conservative Jesse Helms won control of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr Karasin referred in particular to the "initiative of Congressman [Gerald B.H.]

Solomon," a Republican from New York who introduced legislation barring US aid to Russia unless Moscow met stringent new guidelines on intelligence, arms control and economic reforms.

Moscow was furious at the weekend when it emerged that the Americans had granted a visitor's visa to Yusuf Shamseddin, the self-styled foreign minister of the breakaway republic of Chechnia. Mr Shamseddin met an official at the State Department a day after he denounced President Yeltsin as a "drunkard"

and threatened to "burn Moscow".

"These outbursts against Russia, against the developing US-Russian partnership, are probably simply the settling of internal scores, preparing for pre-electoral battles. But this does not change their destructive nature," said Mr Karasin.

The Cold War rhetoric has not been all one-sided, however. In the latest incident, Russian intelligence officials leaked a report claiming that American academic research centres in Moscow were front organisations for the CIA.

France calls for new talks on Balkans

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

MOST of the former Yugoslavia seemed yesterday to be sliding inexorably towards a surge in fighting and anarchy, prompting France to call for yet another international peace conference on the Balkans.

The French proposal comes as Croatia prepares to expel the United Nations, secessionist Serbs in Croatia have sent international negotiators there away empty-handed, and President Milosevic of Serbia

implicitly has backed the rebels by refusing to see the negotiators. Serbs and Muslims meanwhile appear to be gearing up for a spring offensive in Bosnia as fighting broke out in Srebrenica.

The Paris suggestion also comes as Germany and America seem to be stepping back from their allies in Croatia and Bosnia. Robert Dole, the Republican majority leader in the Senate, said that moves to lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims might be delayed, while Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign

Minister, launched a stinging attack on President Tudjman of Croatia for threatening to end the UN's mandate and implied that he was not doing enough to keep the Croat-Muslim federation together.

Britain believes that Bosnian peace hopes sparked by the truce negotiated by Jimmy Carter, the former American President, have begun to slip away. As a member of the five-nation Contact Group of negotiators — along with France, Germany, America and Russia — Britain is also unclear about what would be negotiat-

ed. "We are still considering our position, a government spokesman said. The French proposal is likely to be discussed when Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, meets his French and German counterparts at a meeting of the Turkish and leading European Union foreign ministers in London tomorrow."

□ Sarajevo: Bosnian Serbs who kidnapped Namik Berberovic, 50, a Bosnian journalist, from a UN-armed car last week are demanding he be exchanged for two Serb POWs. UN officials said. (AP)



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Clinton to bypass Congress on aid for Mexico

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON abruptly abandoned a futile battle for congressional approval of a \$40 billion (25.6 billion) economic rescue package for Mexico yesterday and instead announced immediate unilateral action to support the piling peso.

Using his executive authority, Mr Clinton ordered \$20 billion in loan guarantees for Mexico from the US Exchange Stabilisation Fund. He announced that the International Monetary Fund would contribute another \$5.5 billion and the Bank of International Settlements short-term loans worth \$10 billion.

Mr Clinton's bold but politically risky action produced an instant surge in both the Mexican stock market and the peso, the value of which had fallen 45 per cent since devaluation on December 20 and on Monday reached a all-time low against the dollar.

The President said he was not certain his action would be enough to alleviate Mexico's financial crisis, but was convinced it "risks of inaction are greater than the risks of decisive action... We cannot risk further delay. The situation in Mexico continues to worsen."

He said that billions of dollars worth of exports and hundreds of thousands of American jobs would be lost if the Mexican economy collapsed. Mexico's America's third-largest trading partner and an estimated 770,000 American jobs depend on Mexican trade.

Mr Clinton said that financial instability could spread to developing countries throughout Latin America and the rest of the world, at that America would face a new flood of illegal Mexican immigrants and drug smuggling. Also at stake, though Mr Clinton refrained from mentioning it, was the international prestige and leadership of both America and its ally.

Mr Clinton acted after convening an emergency White House meeting yesterday morning, which Newt Gingrich, R-Idaho, and other congressional leaders had bluntly told him there was scant chance of Congress swiftly, ever, approving his \$40 billion loan guarantee package.

Top administration officials, based by congressional leaders on both parties, had spent early three weeks trying to persuade congressmen that the package was not a bail-out and that taxpayers' money would be jeopardised because the Mexican Govern-

ment had agreed its oil revenues should be collateral for the loan guarantees.

Congressional reaction to Mr Clinton's announcement was mixed. The White House said Mr Gingrich, the House Speaker, Mr Dole, the Republican Senate leader, and other congressional leaders supported the President. Hank Brown, a senior Republican member of the Senate Budget Committee, accused the President of panicking.

Marcy Kaptur, an Ohio Democrat, said she would study the new package to ensure Mr Clinton "defends the American people against Wall Street speculation," but believed the taxpayers had "prevailed in the first round of the debate over the proposed Mexican bailout."

Opinion polls showed overwhelming public opposition to a package that seemed designed to rescue a foreign country and Wall Street speculators while Congress is preparing drastic cuts in domestic spending.

However, public opinion generally has moved more Mr Clinton's way. Opinion polls seem to show that the less Americans see of Mr Clinton, the more favourably they regard him. He has kept a low profile since the September 1994 election but his approval ratings have been edging up.

Most polls show that nearly half of all respondents approve of the President's performance, although that is still uncomfortably low considering America's economic health. Yesterday a Washington Post survey gave him a 54 per cent approval rating, up nine points in three weeks and his highest in ten months.

A Los Angeles Times poll on Monday offered one explanation: it suggested that public hostility towards Mr Clinton was based less on his politics than his personality. Of the 48 per cent who said they would probably or definitely vote against Mr Clinton's re-election, most based their opposition not on the President's specific policies but on the perception that he breaks his promises, lacks honesty or is too weak.

The Post poll pleased White House officials because higher ratings may deter a challenge to Mr Clinton for the Democrats' 1996 nomination. The previous day Bill Bradley, a respected Democratic senator from New Jersey, had given warning of a debilitating nomination battle if Mr Clinton had failed to improve his standing by the autumn.



Marcia Clark, the deputy district attorney, discussing a ruling by Judge Lance Ito with her colleague Christopher Darden in court in Los Angeles

O.J. Simpson 'at peak fitness' on murder night

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN AN extraordinary return to its opening comments, the prosecution in the O.J. Simpson trial yesterday rejected defence suggestions that the former American footballer was not fit enough to commit murder, saying he was in prime physical condition on the night his former wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ron Goldman, were killed.

Judge Lance Ito granted Marcia Clark an extra ten minutes to return to her opening statement in the light of a

spate of new witnesses introduced at the last minute by her opponents.

Ms Clark attacked the credibility of one witness, Mary Anne Gershas, who claimed to have seen four men running from Nicole Brown Simpson's flat on the night of the killings. Ms Clark said that Ms Gershas was an obsessive who had told a friend she was nowhere near the building at the time.

"She is a known liar and a Simpson groupie," said the deputy district attorney, "one of those people who comes out of the woodwork in high-

profile cases." An exercise video apparently challenges the defence claim that the athlete was too frail to have committed the double murder.

"The exercise video will show what his physical capabilities really were on the night of June 12," said Ms Clark. "How he prided himself on being in good physical condition." She said it included footage of Mr Simpson punching the air with regular jabs and uppercuts.

Ms Clark further attacked those representing Mr Simpson for allegedly misleading the jury about blood

samples that were found under Brown Simpson's fingernails.

As part of its plan to portray Mr Simpson as a wife-beating stalker whose jealousy led finally to murder, the prosecution called as its first witness Sharyn Gilbert, an operator on the 911 emergency line. In a tape of a 911 conversation from January 1989 played to the court yesterday, a woman could be heard screaming, followed by what sounded like someone being hit.

Mr Simpson denies murdering Brown Simpson and Goldman.

Scientists discover 'missing matter'

BY ANJANA AHUJA

AMERICAN scientists believe they have uncovered part of the "missing mass" of the universe. A particle called the neutrino, which is abundant throughout the universe and was previously thought to be weightless, does in fact have a tiny mass.

The finding, by scientists at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, could help to unlock the mystery of "dark matter", which makes up 99 per cent of the universe but cannot be seen. Scientists have deduced the existence of dark matter from the way that galaxies are formed and the way they move. According to experts, the newly found mass might constitute as much as 40 per cent.

"We are being careful because we feel we have a high burden of proof. But we believe we are right and won't have anything to regret later," Dr D. Hywel White, the head of the Los Alamos group, told the New York Times yesterday. The research will appear in *Physical Review Letters*, a leading physics journal.

"This experiment is very interesting and very important," said Dr Gareth Jones, who conducts a dark matter research programme at Imperial College in London. Dr Jones estimated that between 20 and 40 per cent of "missing" matter could be recovered through neutrinos. "This is a very strong candidate to explain at least part of what's missing."

More tests are needed to pinpoint the exact mass, which has been estimated at no more than a hundred thousandth (0.00001 per cent) the mass of an electron. Unlike electrons, neutrinos carry no electric charge. They travel through Earth at nearly the speed of light, and at any instant a billion neutrinos occupy one cubic metre of space.

The Los Alamos experiment involved shooting a beam of protons at a tank of water to produce particles which then hit a steel shield and decayed into one type of neutrino. There are three types. The behaviour of the neutrinos could only be explained by assuming that they had mass.

Origins of squabble threaten extinction for hominid haven

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A FEUD between a celebrity fossil-hunter and Ann Getty, the billionaire and amateur scientist, is threatening one of the world's leading anthropological institutes with extinction.

Mrs Getty and her husband, the oil magnate Gordon Getty, helped to found and finance the prestigious Institute of Human Origins in Berkeley, California. But the couple have fallen out with the institute's director, Donald Johanson, and cut off funds for his work. It was Dr Johanson who 20 years ago discovered the fossilised remains of a 3.2 million-year-old adolescent in Ethiopia who he nicknamed "Lucy", then considered the oldest non-ape ancestor of man.

The feud has split the institute, and resulted in a suit to force its closure and a state investigation into allegations of mismanagement. Lawyers began meeting this week to try to find a settlement. The Gettys helped Dr Johanson to set up the institute in 1982 after



Getty: her funds helped to found the institute

he enraged the scientific community by claiming that he had discovered an entirely new species named *Australopithecus afarensis*. Dr

Johanson's partner in the enterprise was another fossil-hunter, Tim White. But Dr White later fell out with his one-time mentor, and his discontent seems to have filtered back to Mrs Getty, who became one of his pupils at Berkeley University.

Relations between Mrs Getty and Dr Johanson apparently started to deteriorate when the charismatic anthropologist starred in a television series on the history of human evolution. The series virtually excluded the eight geochronologists at the institute who examine fossils to establish their precise age.

Soon afterwards, Dr Johanson started to hear rumours that Mrs Getty was seeking his departure. Last May Mrs Getty told the institute's board that Dr Johanson had to go. The board stood by Dr Johanson, and Mr Getty retaliated by cutting his annual \$600,000 contribution to the institute. With funding from the Gettys, the geochronologists set up a new centre.

Algerian President promises vengeance against bombers

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

PRESIDENT ZEROUAL of Algeria promised yesterday to "exterminate the monsters" responsible for the bomb that killed 42 people and wounded 280 in Algiers, the capital, on Monday.

The Government, shaken by the single worst violent incident since the guerrilla campaign against the French colonial government in the 1950s and early 1960s, threatened revenge against the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and other Muslim militant opposition groups that it blamed for the attack.

Newspapers yesterday said a suicide bomber drove a stolen white Fiat packed with more than 200lb of explosives straight into a building near the six-storey central police station. One paper said police had just enough time to fire a round at the car before the huge explosion that destroyed the police station. An approaching bus was also hit.

Mr Zeroual visited some of the wounded in hospital yesterday. "The whole world knows that the Algerian people and state will not yield before barbarism," he told them. "This type of operation gives us more strength and effectiveness in pursuing our struggle against these monsters until they are exterminated."

The official APS news agency said that 76 of the wounded were still being treated in the Mustapha Pasha hospital. Seven were in serious condition. One wounded woman, recorded on radio, told the President: "Do something to stop the bloodshed. We are innocent. I am the mother of a family. Do something, Mr President, so that my children can live in peace."

Mr Zeroual promised that he would stick to his timetable for presidential elections this year despite the opposition of all the main political parties, including the banned fundamentalist movement.

Monday's attack, the first by a suicide bomber during the three-year fundamentalist campaign, has brought warnings that the Algerian civil war is now entering a deadly new phase, with violence on a scale reminiscent of that at the height of the guerrilla war against the French.

It has also prompted fresh calls by outsiders for peace talks.

The French Foreign Ministry, calling the bombing a "barbaric and blind attack", appealed for talks among all those who condemned terrorism and violence to find a peaceful solution.

Strasbourg: The Council of Europe condemned the bombing in Algiers, Miguel Angel Martinez, president of the council's parliamentary assembly, said yesterday. "The Council of Europe cannot remain silent on such acts which are opposed to the principles we defend," he told parliamentarians from 33 countries at the winter session of the pan-European organisation. (AFP)

Peru fails to accept ceasefire

Lima: Ecuador says it has accepted a ceasefire in its border clashes with Peru to allow time to seek a peaceful solution, but Peru says it has not yet done so. Dozens of soldiers have so far been killed (Gabriella Gaminí writes).

President Durán Ballén of Ecuador said his representative to a meeting of diplomats in Brazil would not take part in talks yesterday if Peru did not agree in advance to halt hostilities in the remote jungle border region.

A Peruvian Foreign Ministry source said: "The information that Peru has accepted a ceasefire is not correct... Peru has not given an official pronouncement."

In Quito, the capital of Ecuador, a Foreign Ministry communiqué said that the ceasefire would take effect at noon local time yesterday. Both Peru and Ecuador have kept their troops on alert along their border, which runs through rainforest potentially rich in oil and minerals. Neither country has stopped its military build-up.

WORLD SUMMARY

Rabin in U-turn over tax

Jerusalem: The announcement that Israel's centre-left Government is to scrap an unpopular capital gains tax only weeks after its introduction prompted sharp rises on the Tel Aviv stock market yesterday and raised questions about the credibility of Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister (Christopher Walker writes).

The U-turn came after Mr Rabin ordered Avraham Shecht, the Finance Minister, to cancel the 10 per cent tax after swearing earlier that it would never be imposed.

Parishioner sues Senate chaplain

Washington: A Hollywood minister elected chaplain to the US Senate last week became the latest casualty of scandal after a parishioner claims he talked her out of having an abortion and then refused to offer counselling after she attempted suicide (Tom Rhodes writes).

The Rev Lloyd Ogilvie denies the claims by Elisabeth Saret, 39, who is suing him for fraud and for deliberately inflicting emotional stress.

Harare names first white hero

Harare: A liberal Englishman who fell foul of Rhodesia's authorities as a farmer in the 1960s and 1970s has been made Zimbabwe's first white national hero (Jan Raath writes). The move follows months of anti-white sentiment. Guy Clutton-Brock, 88, who died in North Wales on Sunday, was stripped of his Rhodesian citizenship for supporting black nationalism.

UN to police Haiti peace

New York: The Security Council has approved the creation of a 6,000-strong peacekeeping force to take over from the US-led coalition in Haiti by the end of March (James Bone writes). A resolution calls for the troops and 900 policemen to stay for a year. The peacekeepers can use force only in self-defence.

Bodies exhumed after ten years

New York: Police have begun exhuming the bodies of people who died in an Ohio hospital a decade ago to determine whether they were poisoned by a serial killer on the ward. A doctor said that he suspects a technician may have killed up to 30 patients by injecting them with a muscle relaxant.



Clinton: used executive powers to help Mexican economy, which supports 770,000 American jobs

HIV research gives go-ahead for kissing

BY NIGEL HAYES
SCIENCE EDITOR

KISSING, once included in the list of unsafe sexual practices has been given the all-clear. You cannot catch Aids by kissing because a protein in saliva protects the white blood cell from infection, according to Dr Tessie McNelly, of the US National Institute of Dental Research.

Her studies confirm the experience of the past decade, which shows that it is extremely difficult to catch Aids by kissing, even of the most passionate kind. The protein, secretory leukocyte protease

inhibitor, attaches itself to the white blood cells and protects them from infection. Dr McNelly told a meeting of the American Society for Microbiology yesterday. Researchers have known for a long time that it is difficult to find any evidence of HIV in the saliva of people who are infected, and transmission of HIV through kissing remains unproven.

"That's why we were prompted to look for the physiological reason," Dr McNelly said. Just how the protein protects against HIV remains unclear, and there may be other substances in saliva that also contribute. Among these are proteins called mucins, which Dr

Earl J. Bergey, of the State University of New York at Buffalo, has shown can help by causing HIV to clump together. But even when many of these are removed, saliva still protects cells from HIV.

Dr McNelly tested a variety of saliva proteins to see which ones kept HIV from infecting blood cells. Only one seemed to work at the concentrations usually found in saliva. The protein is made by cells in the mucous membranes.

The finding could lead to new therapies. Dr McNelly said that it might be possible to inject the protein into the bloodstream, keeping HIV from blood cells.

Aids 'biggest killer of young US adults'

AIDS has surpassed accidents as the biggest killer of young adults in America, according to figures released yesterday.

In 1993 HIV infection became the biggest cause of death among Americans aged 25 to 44. Dr Harold Jaffe, of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, said that more than 441,000 Americans have developed Aids since 1981, and more than 250,000 have died.

Health officials estimate that more than ten million adults and about a million children have been infected with HIV around the world.

In 1993, about 35 of every 100,000 young American adults died from Aids, while about 32 died from accidents, followed by cancer, heart disease, suicide and murder. Dr Jaffe said that Aids is the biggest killer of young adults in 79 American cities.

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Gillian Bowditch on the terrible burden of a Scottish landowner who inherited a great estate and discovered he was penniless

When the laird is driven to the bottle

Godfrey Macdonald was only 22 when his father died, leaving him a sizeable estate on the island of Skye, a mansion, the family silver and the chiefdom of the most powerful clan in Scotland. It was the sort of inheritance most can only dream of.

But within 36 hours of his father's death in 1970, the new Lord Macdonald of Macdonald, Chief of the Clan Donald, discovered that the entire estate was mortgaged and the debts run up by his father far exceeded the assets.

Lord Macdonald, who had been married for less than a year, faced a situation which is well understood by many of Britain's peers who are rich in history but poor in wealth. How do you maintain a sporting estate and a draughty old house on a minuscule income? He did what many have done before him: he took to the bottle.

Lord Macdonald, Gog to his friends, has spoken with refreshing honesty on BBC Scotland's *Moment of Truth* about his addiction and the burden of running a family estate. "If I had not been able to get conventional spirits I would have drunk meths or any-

thing. I was completely obsessed with the consumption of alcohol," says the Chief of the Name and Arms of Macdonald.

Like Lord Macdonald, many lairds from once wealthy aristocratic families have found the burden of a sporting estate too much. Rather than cut their losses and sell the family lands, they struggle on. No laird, conscious of the merciless judgment of history, wants to be remembered as the baron who lost the family land.

In recent years the combination of the recession, the Lloyd's debacle and the atrocious grouse and salmon seasons have meant that many landowners in Scotland have had to tighten their kilt straps and padlock their sporrans.

All are conscious of the fate of the Fraser family: their 160,000-acre Lovat Estate has been broken up after the death of Simon Fraser, Master of Lovat, who left debts of £7.4 million. Even smaller sporting estates need a considerable income to maintain them. Colin Carter-Campbell, of Brodies, the

Scottish land agents, estimates that a Highland estate needs about £40,000 a year invested in it if it is to be properly maintained.

Richard and Anna Stead recently sold the Scottish island estate of Eilean Shona, just off the Ardnarnach peninsula, for £1.3 million. They had no idea when they bought the island, which has an income of £60,000 a year from oyster farming and holiday cottages, how tough life would be.

"We had no intention of vegetating, but we had to work much harder than we expected to make a go of it," Mr Stead says.

Further south, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester raised eyebrows when they announced they



Macdonald of Macdonald: "The estate was in hock"

were moving out of their Northamptonshire estate, Barnwell Manor, because of the cost of maintaining it, despite a £175,000 income from the Civil List and farm subsidies estimated at more than £230,000.

Lord Macdonald is adamant that he had no inkling of the

financial disaster which awaited him on the death of his father. The seventh baron had had an operation on his throat and had difficulty communicating. He had tried to warn his son of the problem and had tried to get his lawyers to do something about it, but it was too late.

"I had absolutely no idea," says Lord Macdonald. "I was still in shock from my father's death."

The lawyer came up from Edinburgh and we all gathered together for the reading of the will. I was not prepared to hear what I did hear. The estate was such a mess. There was talk of selling everything, even the house my mother lived in.

Everything else was sold, but the house was saved and Lord

Macdonald and his new wife, Claire, decided to run Kinloch Lodge as an hotel. Their joint income at the time was £40 a month. In the early days alcohol was a comfort and a refuge from the financial worries.

"About six months or so after my father died, I suddenly discovered that a little alcohol, and in those days it was a little, actually soothed the nerves. What appeared to be an insurmountable problem didn't seem so bad with a slightly light head," says Lord Macdonald.

Although the hotel became an international success, and Lady Macdonald became a renowned cookery writer, the debts did not clear and the access he had to drink became too much of a temptation.

"I was binge drinking. I would get completely and utterly blotto. I felt awful the next morning, the guilt, the shame, I thought I was concealing my drinking from everyone but that was just a joke," he says. "I had bottles hidden every-

where. I was drinking anything that contained alcohol."

Lady Macdonald says she realised the extent of the problem when her husband fell over drunk on the road one afternoon. They were out for a walk. He was good at concealing his drinking and they tended to socialise with other heavy drinkers. It was not until she threatened to leave him and take their four children to her husband's family that he sought help in English treatment centres.

He is now free from his addiction to drink. Lord Macdonald, a likable, modest man, knows the problems of the estate are far from over. He was recently criticised in the Highlands for allegedly casting in on the Battle of Culloden an advertising \$250 plaques to Americans in a memorial garden to mark the 250th anniversary of the battle next year.

Now he is preparing his son Hugo for his inheritance and hopes that it will not be a burden. "Claire and I are doing everything we can to eliminate the debt," he says. "I would be liar if I said we are free from debt from it. But we can live with it."

Floods that formed a nation

Dutch history is a story of battling with, and overcoming, the treachery of water, Peter Millar writes

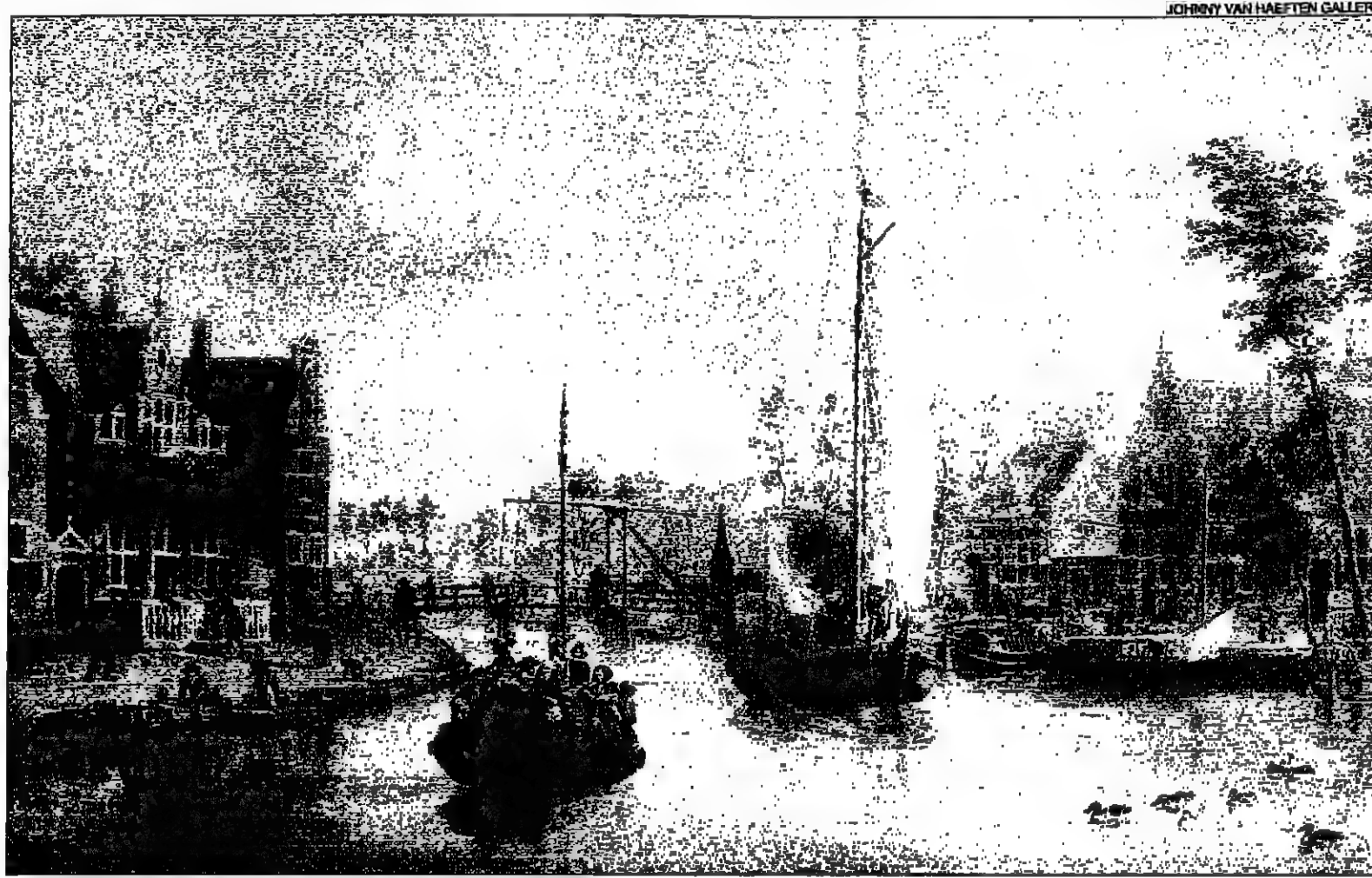
Since the dawn of history, great river deltas have offered mankind simultaneously the most attractive and the most dangerous places to settle.

The Dutch today, battling against the combined force of rain and surging tides to prevent their country being swamped beyond hope, may spare a thought for the Ancient Egyptians for whom the annual flood of the Nile brought both fertile soil and occasional catastrophes. The entire history of The Netherlands is bound up with its precarious existence astride the confluence of Europe's greatest river networks.

On at least one occasion, the sea came to the rescue. The history of the modern Dutch state began in the 16th century when the Protestant low countries rebelled against their

Spanish Catholic Hapsburg overlords and formed the United Provinces. In the wars of independence a Spanish army besieging the city of Leyden, several miles from the coast, was amazed to find itself under attack from a Dutch fleet: the rescuers had breached the dykes and flooded the land, swamping the besiegers' camp.

For centuries, as for houses, the most critical factors, as estate agents tell us, are "location, location and location". Over the centuries their location has brought the Dutch trade, floods and wars. What we call The Netherlands, reduced to pure geography, began as a cluster of settlements on patches of land in the deltas of the Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt rivers. Right up until early medieval times, these were shifting sands on which



Jacob Storck's *A Canal with Barges*: as the past few flood-filled days have suggested, Dutch efficiency is born of bitter experience over centuries

to build the foundations of a society.

The relative calm and efficiency with which the Dutch have responded to the disaster of the past few days — in comparison with the Japanese showing in the wake of the Kobe earthquake — is built on centuries of bitter experience. So far the floods have had nothing like the calamitous consequences of the great inundation of 1953 in which more than 1,800 people died.

8,000 homes were destroyed and 375,000 acres flooded. The total damage was estimated at the time to be worth more than £100 million. Of the four ancient elements, water is still the most implacable.

That flooding was caused primarily not by rain but by a ferocious storm whipped up off the North Sea by winds gusting up to 115 miles an hour. On the island of Tholen the sea swept away a dyke near the village of Stavenisse, de-

stroyed farmhouses and hurled them through the streets. In one night alone 200 people died. Yet with stoicism the Dutch have not so much reclaimed as aggressively stolen land from the sea. The canal network served a dual purpose in both the countryside and the great cities of Amsterdam and Rotterdam: providing relatively secure channels and making them navigable for commerce.

The dykes — with the apocryphal story of the boy who

saved his town by plugging the high tide level. Apart from building dykes to protect their farms, the Dutch have not so much reclaimed as aggressively stolen land from the sea. The canal network served a dual purpose in both the countryside and the great cities of Amsterdam and Rotterdam: providing relatively secure channels and making them navigable for commerce.

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crops rather than threaten them. The land behind has since been systematically drained and drained. Since 1953 a network of more substantial reinforcements had also been erected. But the past few days have shown that the forces of nature may be held in check, but rarely conquered.

The intimate acquaintance of the Dutch with the sea made them masters of it as much as any island race. The Dutch rebellion against Spanish rule was based not only on religious grounds but on expectation of trading riches, both from their own expanding mercantile empire and from their control of the European sea lanes. Only the wars with the English — bitterly recorded by Samuel Pepys who had task of rebuilding the British Navy after the Dutch sailed up the Medway to Chatham and burnt it — limited the domination of the sea lanes.

Dutch domination of the Rhine delta is particular, however, has made their country a battlefield. Neither Napoleon nor Hitler did contemplate their continental domination — and their lands for blockades against Britain — without control of the Dutch ports. The seeds of Germany's destruction by RAF bombers were laid by its prosperity as a port. Fate and geography, however, decreed that the German economy miracle was also the motor of Rotterdam's regeneration and its assumption of London's lost mantle as Europe's premier port. The battle to reap the riches of their fertile lands and strategic ports while holding off the forces of nature has bonded the Dutch into a nation. But like any high-risk game, it has rules: you win some and you lose some.

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Kate of the Rovers

ON MONDAY night Kate Hoey, the Labour MP for Vauxhall, was amused to see hordes of sports reporters let loose in the corridors of Westminster. Years of hobnobbing with football hooligans had still not prepared them for the raucousness of Parliament in full swing. "There was a bit of bustling which made our debate start much later. I really did think you would be much better off at a football match where things are far more civilised."

Ms Hoey, 48, is one of the few people equally at home cheering from the Arsenal terraces or booing from the back benches. That evening she had the chance to bring her two passions together when she made a speech demanding a Government-led inquiry into financial corruption in football.

It was an outcry which will, she acknowledges, have made her several enemies. "There's a very blockish attitude to all this, especially if you're a mere woman," she says. "I was on the Today programme that morning with Douglas Ellis, the chairman of Aston Villa and he was so patronising. It was so funny. But I don't want to be seen as a silly woman. I'm a supporter, I care and I know what I'm talking about."

The briefest glance at Ms Hoey's biography backs up this claim. As a child, growing up in rural Co Antrim, she would be taken by her father to watch Northern Ireland play at Windsor Park, Belfast. Ms Hoey would carry a folding stool, which she placed at the back of the terraces for a perfect view of her favourite player, Billy Bingham.

Julia Llewellyn Smith on Kate Hoey's outcry against football corruption



Hoey: "I liked the dignity"

champion. After the Ulster College of Physical Education, Hoey moved to London to take an economics degree. As the result of a conversation she had at a sports conference, Ms Hoey ended up in an extraordinary job as an adviser to the players of Arsenal, Spurs, Chelsea, QPR and Brentford. The aim was to teach apprentice footballers straight out of school about life in the real world: how to budget, make small talk, order wine in a restaurant and give a firm handshake.

HER involvement with Arsenal was rewarded when the team beat Liverpool to win the 1989 league, thanks to a last-minute goal from Michael Thomas, one of her brood. "I was fighting the by-election in Vauxhall and I wasn't allowed the evening off. In the end they allowed me half the evening and I got home just in

time to see that goal." She sighs at the memory.

Ms Hoey won the seat anyway, and her maiden speech was against the introduction of identity cards. She received a call from John Smith, sacking her as a Labour spokesman, just as Arsenal scored the winner in the 1993 FA Cup. "I had good and bad news," she said at the time. She has lived with the photographer Tom Stoddart ever since "things got serious" at the 1986 Mexico World Cup.

Like many diehard fans Ms Hoey is appalled by the game's tarnished image. Paul Merson, one of the players in that 1989 dream team is in drugs rehabilitation, while the Arsenal manager George Graham is alleged to have received £285,000 as an unsolicited gift, after the transfer of John Jensen from the Danish club, Brøndby. "I liked the image of Arsenal, the dignity, all the things now under attack," she says. "There is great disillusionment."

Far more people are interested in the outcome of the league than the intricacies of Maastricht, a fact the Government rightly ignores. Ms Hoey has abandoned her ambition to score the winning goal in the cup final in favour of promoting the game as minister of sport. "Football is generally treated as something unimportant, only a leisure pursuit. I hope that what I have said may give politicians a bit more credibility with young people."

And why should young people be involved in that most unsocialist world of competitive sport? "Because they learn to excel and to be disciplined," says Ms Hoey. "And they learn to lose as well as win." Important lessons for anyone, but especially an ambitious politician.

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JP 11/1/95

PARIS: Lagerfeld and Lacroix dominate the couture shows with breathtaking displays of sophistication

Welcome to heaven on earth



GUY LAROCHE: Michel Klein's barely-there dress

The clothes which were paraded in Paris last week at the couture collections for spring/summer 1995 have little or nothing to do with the real world. They are the epitome of every little girl's dream — a supreme dressing-up-box fantasy. And, if you have the wherewithal (and it would cost hundreds of thousands of pounds), they would certainly provide the ultimate designer wardrobe.

Given that there is no limit to the excesses expected at these showings, there is often a tendency among designers to lose their heads. To add more feathers, more embroidery, more sparkle, and to send out models looking like queens of vaudeville. The flashy can so easily look trashy.

What a joy, then, to witness a season which advocates restraint, and makes a virtue of refinement. Last week's shows in Paris were dominated by two designers: Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel and Christian Lacroix. Both are notorious for their wild fashion antics. Lagerfeld is an arch magpie, reworking ideas from subculture and street, while Lacroix is the king of class, a man who subverts bad taste and makes it good again. Yet both offered collections which personified *soigné* gentility.

This underplayed vision was far from lacklustre: it was

Fashion
by IAIN R. WEBB

the very embodiment of sophistication — how to dress if you have lashings of money and do not wish to look like a vulgarian. Their collections were, quite simply, heaven on earth.

At Chanel, Lagerfeld took as his inspiration the 1950s model Suzy Parker. For the most part his collection was the colour of rich caviar, blackest black. His silhouettes were honed to perfection — Shapely hourglass suits, with pencil-slim skirts just hitting the knee, curved effortlessly about the body — while the most understated button-through day dresses looked particularly demure. Narrow-fit sleeves ended somewhere between elbow and wrist, often with a flick-up cuff.

There was not one dress, or suit, or button for that matter, in the Chanel show which looked out of place. It was a pleasant surprise. Lagerfeld is known for his excesses at Chanel — his jokey accessories and nouveau riche styling — but with this collection he has shown that he has much more to offer.

Lagerfeld is, without doubt, a designer who understands the craft of haute couture: the simplest of little striped T-shirts, bearing the interlocking double-C logo, at first looked fabulously modern. On closer inspection, discovering that they are made up of a thousand tiny pearls, they are no less than the work of a genius.

Christian Lacroix's collection was equally breathtaking. Without losing his trademark bohemian opulence, Lacroix demonstrated the cleverest of fashion's conjuring tricks — he made less look more.

The clashing floral patterns and intricate lacework that he has made his own were still on

CHANEL: Karl Lagerfeld's *soigné* statement — sleek tailoring offset by an over-the-top feathered hat

show, but this time only hinted at. Fabrics were subtly faded, lace cast a shadow across a dress, a skirt of sparkling mother-of-pearl palettes was barely visible under another in floral chiffon, while flamboyant bustles hid behind elegantly slim silhouettes. Corseted bodices and pouffed skirts were evocative of *fin de siècle* gowns, when society danced till dawn. With this collection Lacroix waltzed into fashion's hall of fame. Deluxe and delightful.

Surprisingly at *couture*, the best the designers had to offer was intended for daytime. Valentino, Hubert de Givenchy, Gianni Versace and Gianfranco Ferré at Dior cut suits and dresses as sharp as the scissors in their ateliers. Michel Klein at Guy Laroche offered simplest black dresses which were equally uncompromising. Yves Saint Laurent, Ungaro, and Oscar de la Renta at Balmain also produced evening looks which were sumptuous without being silly.

It was a grand season for *couture* but, in a world where the fantastic is the norm, and dreams come true and parade down the catwalk, there was an overwhelming mood of reality. Virtually.



BALMAIN: Oscar de la Renta's swathed gown in baby-pink silk



SAINT LAURENT: A virtuoso performance in understated drapery



VALENTINO: The hourglass silhouette and a corseted waist



DIOR: Bold shapes in black and white — the look of the season

Photographs by CHRIS MOORE

LACROIX: A *fin de siècle* gown in ice-blue silk and a ladylike corsage

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Upholding Westminster prerogative

John Biffen on the battle-lines for the next general election

The devolution carousel has come full circle. Abortive debates on the Scottish and Welsh assemblies dominated the 1974-79 Parliament. Undeterred, Labour again offers somewhat stronger assemblies, and the questionable bonus of regional government for England. There is one crucial difference. Today, the Scottish Labour Parliamentary Party is predominantly in favour of an Edinburgh law-making and taxing assembly. The doubters have been reduced to the lone and persistent Tam Dalyell.

John Major, even at the last general election, denounced devolution as a threat to the constitution and to sound practical government. He has returned to the theme with added vigour in recent weeks, espousing the cause of the Union with every bit as much vigour as Margaret Thatcher. Inevitably, he has sharply distanced himself from the devolutionist attitudes of Edward Heath. Surprisingly little analysis has been made of Mr Major's strategic judgment, for although the policy is decidedly risky, it could become a serious factor in the forthcoming general election.

John Major wants to preserve relationships that have been patiently developed over decades. Labour and the Liberal Democrats have been making all the running — for a devolved or a federalised UK. John Major's task is to rebut them, not to counter with some alternative administrative upheaval. At last he has to behave like a traditional Tory and not some smart political technocrat.

The Prime Minister correctly judges that Northern Ireland can best be secured within the Union if there is a Belfast assembly. This sits uneasily with his hostility to a Scottish assembly, but at least the Northern Ireland proposals are only an adjunct of local government, with no tax implications. John Major also has to concede that the cause of the Union is at a low ebb in Scotland. Many Conservatives are undeterred by the present arithmetic. They argue that the strong unionist stance of John Major and Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, at the last election produced a modest revival in Tory fortunes when near extinction had been predicted.

These Irish and Scottish ambiguities may blur the constitutional debate between Labour and the Tories, but they do leave broad differences that will be increasingly argued. Under John Major's leadership, the Conservatives favour minimum constitutional change. The competence of Westminster will not be challenged, particularly by the establishment of a powerful and tax-raising assembly in Scotland. The clear rejection of regional government for England should check a burgeoning bureaucracy. There will also be plans for a Northern Ireland assembly, needing to be popularly endorsed by a referendum. Altogether, the Conservative position on the

constitution is necessarily conditional and somewhat lacking in logical rigour. That is no disaster. The general attitude is cautious, resolved to maintain traditional constitutional forms and to promote a unitary fiscal State.

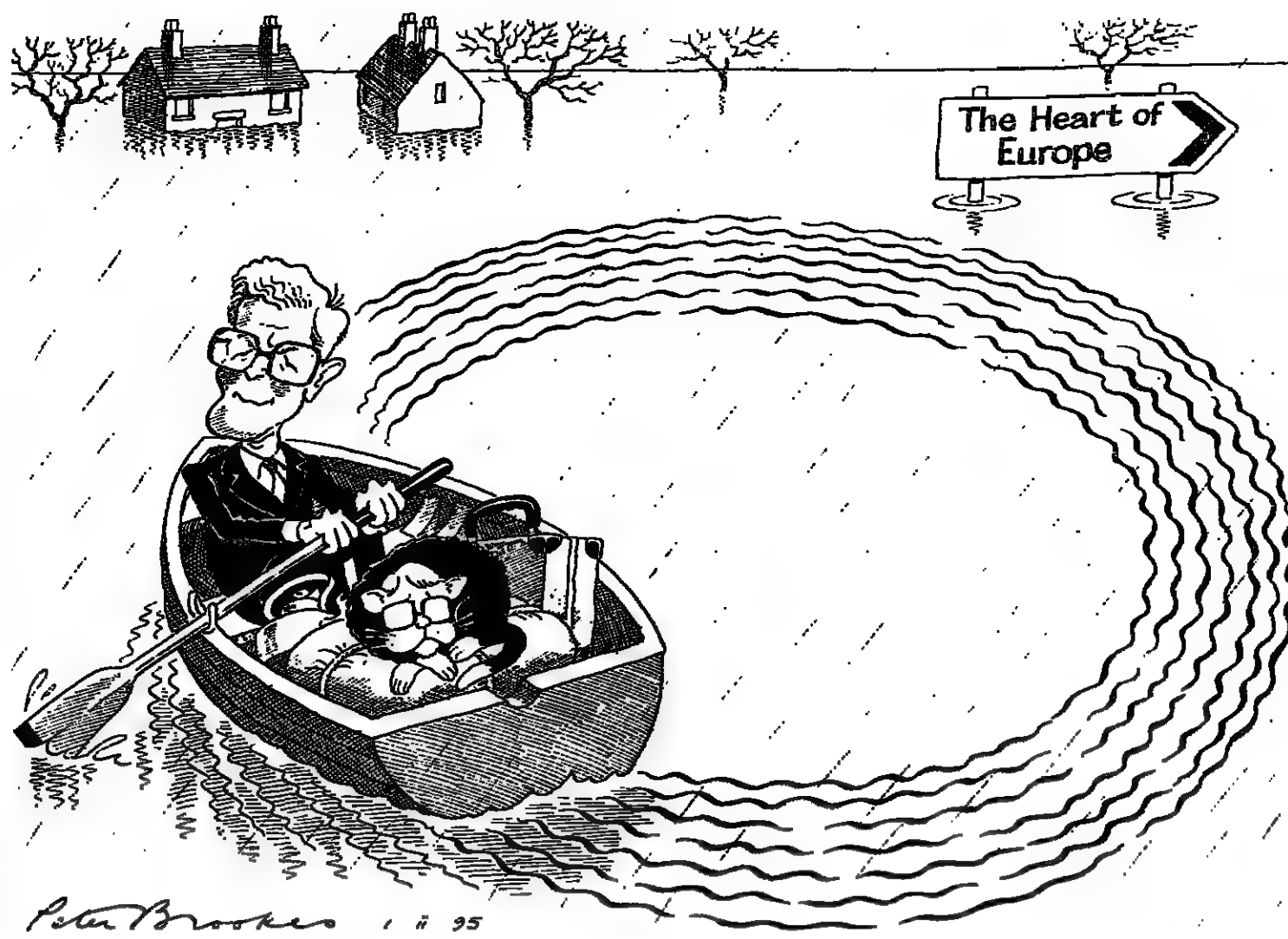
Labour's attitude is a challenging contrast. Tony Blair is the innovator. He wants new centres of government and is prepared to gamble that devolution will placate rather than encourage Scottish nationalism. "New" Labour, cautious to a fault when considering fiscal, health and education problems, is avowedly reformist when dealing with the constitution.

We are beginning to learn that Europe is not essentially about trade; it is about the creation of new constitutional structures of government, potentially to the detriment of the nation-state.

This point was appreciated 20 years ago. Then, devolution legislation followed on the heels of the European Communities Act. Edward Heath was the most forceful Conservative advocate of both European membership and Scottish devolution. His opponents argued that the Westminster unitary State was being subverted from within and without, as power was transferred to Brussels and the devolved assemblies. At the time, the argument seemed plausible but theoretical. Today it looks more relevant. There is now a discernible trend. The European budget is expanding. There are European commitments to industrial, regional and social policies. These will match the long-established and notorious agricultural policy. Brussels will argue that monetary union necessitates economic convergence, which in turn will require a transfer of resources from wealthy EU states to the less affluent. Since the EU's objective is to diminish national authority, there will be a determined effort to establish a relationship between Brussels and the regions. Of course, this will be a hard battle. The British Treasury will cling like a limpet to its present power, but no one should doubt that over time an expanded Brussels budget will favour links with the regions.

Battle-lines are being drawn for the general election. As in the 1970s, the issues of constitutional reform and EU membership are linked. The Tories emphasise the constitution, the maintenance of Westminster primacy in fiscal and legislative affairs, the avoidance of sprawling bureaucracy and a referendum to confirm fundamental governmental change. It is practically a septic charter. Indeed if the Prime Minister can deploy a policy that so openly defends the constitution from the challenge within, who can doubt that he will contest the Brussels challenge of the single currency, increasing Commission power, majority voting and a stronger Strasbourg Parliament?

The author is Conservative MP for Shropshire North.



Accident in waiting

The Government is cutting services and destroying the principle of accountability

Today the House of Commons debates John Major's latest political gamble. It is bigger by far than his contortions over Europe. MPs are discussing the first cut, deep and true, in Britain's local government services for 20 years. Schools are already seeing millions stripped from their budgets. Roads, libraries, old people and the mentally ill will soon show the strain. I always take such scare stories with a pinch of salt, but I cannot see how ministers can avoid an imminent burst of appalling publicity.

For five years, local spending has been cushioned by billions of pounds of Treasury "guilt money". The equivalent of 4p has been added to income tax, first to ease the poll tax, then to ease the business rate, then to ease the council tax. Bribes poured in a torrent. At the start of the fiscal year in 1987, central government in one form or another contributed 40 per cent of local revenue. At the end it contributes 80 per cent of revenue and caps the rest. Now local spending is to be cut in real terms by more than ever before in modern history, largely because the Cabinet has taken the power to enforce it. John Major believes the electorate will blame the councils and not him. And pigs will fly.

As we saw with the poll tax, local government leaves Westminster politicians and their hangers-on mystified. The subject is like a poisonous mist emanating from some far-off swamp. Sometimes it rises without warning and kills dozens of innocent MPs — Margaret Thatcher was among them in 1990. The rest of the time it is best avoided. On central government, Westminster is sophisticated and subtle; on local government any old cliché will do.

Accordingly, local government is inefficient, spendthrift and irresponsible. It cheekily demands a sovereignty it never had, to spend other people's money on services better supplied by the twin gods of the free market or a central agency. The sooner it is replaced by quangos the better and cheaper for us all. The man in Whitehall knows best, aided by Mr Major's new super-hero, "the person of business experience". This thesis was well exemplified in an article by Daniel Finkelstein and an editorial in Monday's Times. Let us take it apart.

● British local government has no sovereignty. Yes it has. As the Commons bartered power from the Crown, so town and then county

councils bartered power from territorial grandees. Both based their legitimacy on the growth of the franchise in the 19th century. Most traditional local government services — such as police, schools and sewerage — were the result of a compact between local and central interests. Parliament had supreme sovereignty, but left local government to raise taxes and hire, spend or save at will. Two governments this century have massively breached this subsidiarity. The 1945 Atlee Government removed health and public utilities from local control. The Thatcher Government sought to

the education budget, 5 per cent more for the police and 13 per cent more for agriculture. A few councils may be extravagant, even crazed. So are most ministers. The beam is in the Cabinet's eye, not local government's.

● Local spending is unaccountable. That is Parliament's doing. In 1987, when the poll tax was being planned, 60 per cent of local spending was within the discretion of councils, and only 40 per cent came from central government grants. A sensible reform of local government could have spread the rates burden more widely and made local councillors more answerable for it.

● Local government is spendthrift. It is not. While Margaret Thatcher was screaming about overspending councils, local spending actually fell in real terms in each of her first three years in office. Her own spending soared. Even in 1985, the local rate was roughly in line with targets set by Crosland in his famous "party's over" speech of 1976. Thatcher's first Environment Secretary, Michael Heseltine, was successful in curbing spending, which every year ran behind the rise in central spending (and does today). Some councils were and are spendthrift, but that is their business. The total of local expenditure is under far better control than central spending. The introduction of rate-capping and the poll tax was based on a whopping lie.

● Local councils are politically motivated to extravagance. This is rubbish. Throughout the 1980s, Labour local government reduced its share of public spending, and was doing so long before capping. The trend continues. The chief engineer of public-sector inflation at present is Kenneth Clarke. Excluding items demanded by central government (such as the police), local spending next year will rise by less than 1 per cent in cash terms. Meanwhile, Mr Clarke has granted his colleagues 3.8 per cent more for health, 3.7 per cent more for social security, 4.1 per cent more for

common local tax rate, in effect a government property tax. Local fiscal discretion has all but gone. In the private sector, such stripping away of discretion is seen as destroying management responsibility and incentive. Diversity is the key to innovation and improvement. Britain has a more centralised public administration than anywhere else in the Western world. Ministers have never said why this is a good thing or given evidence of their supreme competence.

● All this is irrelevant because centralisation is simply more efficient. Who says? Ask any expert to name the least efficient organisations in Britain and they will reel off the Prison Service, the (pre-trust) hospitals and the Ministry of Defence, all run by Whitehall. The least efficient police force has long been London's Met, run by the Home Office. Some left-wing councils are inefficient, but local democracy appears better able to deliver cost-effective public services than central government. The reason is that town and county halls are closer to raw accountability for public money than ministers and MPs. Nobody who lives and works in Westminster will ever believe this.

A sign of a small mind is that it cannot see the other side to its own argument. Lady Thatcher and John Major have carried out probably the greatest-ever cull of democracy in Britain. In 1900, the people of London elected 12,000 people to run their city. Roughly the same number run London today, but only 2,000 are elected, while 10,000 are appointed by Downing Street. The number of elected officials per voter in Western democracies varies from 1:250 to 1:450. In Britain it is 1:2,300. For all the smugness ministers show towards democracies elsewhere in Europe, Britain is on any definition the least democratic nation in the continent.

The Government is continuing to cap and cut local government spending, controlling this process from the centre. Experience shows that this will force up public expenditure and give ministers ever more to do and defend. In coming months, the pavers of Downing Street will see old people who have been expelled from hostels, parents rejected by their preferred schools, children shut out of libraries, park-keepers declared redundant and Tory voters demanding money with menaces. They will not hold local government responsible, for the sensible reason that neither does Mr Major.

Simon Jenkins

accountability. To complain that councils are not accountable is like a mugger pointing at his victim and jeering. "Oh look, he can't stand up". ● Quangos members are more accountable than councillors since they are appointed by ministers in Parliament. Here we enter fantasy land. Quangos have their uses. They have, as Mr Finkelstein pointed out on Monday, brought outside experience to many closed Civil Service fiefdoms. They have exposed the performance of government. The 50,000 quangos members who are taking over from the dwindling total of 25,000 elected councillors are better than a nation of commissars. But to say they are more accountable is absurd. Jacques Delors might as well say that his commissioners are more accountable for what goes on in Britain than any MP. Quangos members do not hold surgeries or stand for election. They are mostly proxies for central government control.

● The public nowadays wants standardised services, not diverging ones. Really? The public certainly wants a statutory minimum, but this is now a statutory maximum. Standard spending limits linked to central grants are moving all councils towards a

Alan Coren



■ If this is heroism, as they claim, then the world is a lesser place than of yore

Back in the high and far-off times, Best Beloved, when a newspaper was a newspaper and the status of an editor was such that his very name could deputise for Almighty God's when the general were groping for an acceptable oath, Gordon Bennett, of the *New York Herald*, laid down an iron rule for his trembling staff. "A journalist", Bennett said (or, more likely, thundered, for that was what great editors tended to do, then, "must, like a lawyer, never ask a question to which he does not know the answer. The populace comes to us in bewilderment, relying upon us to resolve that unhappy state, and it is our duty to meet them with omniscience. The only questions permitted a responsible press are rhetorical ones." Good sounding stuff, eh? and, apart from anything else, a useful clue for any who may have wondered why Henry Morton Stanley should have been in any doubt, that morning in Ujiji. Clearly, he was not since he had been sent there by Gordon Bennett, we may be sure that he would never have inquired, "Doctor Livingstone, I presume?" unless he was in absolutely no doubt whatever. He was just having a bit of a giggle.

A century on, however, things have changed. There are no certainties left, you and I know that we are all at sea in the same pitching sieve, and if I also happen to find myself there without a paddle, I feel, in this caring, sharing world, that I should be free to turn to you for succour. So since I have, today, a question to which I do not know the answer, but you just might, then I say to hell with Gordon Bennett, if any of you out there has children swinging on rubber-bands who want to open supermarkets and endorse breakfast cereals, please get in touch.

For that is what Jefferson King does for a living, or at any rate did until London Weekend Television gave him the thumbs down, this being what gladiators get when their services are no longer required; and though Nero, given his own predilections, might well have been sympathetic to an employee who did drugs, LWT dare not be, because Shadow, as Mr King is known when swinging on his Saturday night rubber-band, is, say his employers sternly, "a hero to millions of young children".

So my questions is: oh, is he? For I no longer have young children, and I thus no longer know what young children find heroic. But I need to know this, because I have seen *Gladiators*, and what is chunky, varnished, glowering epynoms do is swing from the ceiling on long rubber-bands in the hope of knocking others off their feet, so that the well-rehearsed claque below will thrash themselves into shrieking ecstasy and thus encourage viewers to turn out in droves when these great stars go off to inaugurate fresh blights on the hitherto unspoiled landscape, at enormous fees, or reappear, in plastic miniature, in jumbo packs of overpriced roughage.

Well, it doesn't seem much like heroism to me. But then it wouldn't seem much like heroism to me even if they did it wearing Fred Perry's flannels over Douglas Bader's tin legs and Ian Botham's box and holding them up with one hand wrapped in Henry Cooper's glove while swinging with the other, it would still seem like a catchpenny parody of heroism which differed from the arcade games that generated it only by virtue of the fact that Sonic the Hedgehog never gets his private life in the raunchier tabloids. That is why I want to know from those of you with young children whether or not, as LWT claims, it seems heroic to them.

Because if it does, and if the nation's gawping toddlers are being encouraged to aspire to the condition of pumpkin-thewed yo-yos whose mission in life is to whip the mob to hysteria for the greater glory of mass-merchandising, then the fact that their thews got that way by the regular binfuls of testosterone, stanazolol and oxy-metholone to which Mr King has shamefacedly confessed should be the least of our worries.

For ought even hormonally unimpeachable gladiators be the glass wherein the country's youth do dress themselves? It isn't your answer I need, it's theirs. And if it's yes, then maybe LWT should sack everyone.

Just horseplay?

CANTONA has been harnessed for training. His recent antics mean he must be sidelined for at least two months. When there is no danger of his taking out his frustration with another furious kick, he will be allowed to run out again with his peers. In the meantime, he has been put out to graze.

The Cantona in question is a racehorse, a four-year-old gelding called Ooh Ah Cantona, which has career problems similar to those of the Manchester United player after whom he was named.

Last week, on the day that the two-legged Cantona stuck studs into a Crystal Palace fan, the racehorse was having foot trouble of his own. He was lame, a farrier was called and a special boot was fitted to protect the hoof. But in a fit of pique it was shed.

"The next morning we found he had kicked it over a four-foot fence into a stream. It took us three days to find it," explains Mark Rayner, assistant manager at Louella Stud, near Thirsk, where the horse, three times a winner as a two-year-old, has been wintering while recovering from a virus.

He was supposed to be going back into training but we will have



Ooh Ah: Eric's namesake

smashes properly and doesn't bounce back to catch Her Majesty on the nose.

Wet look I

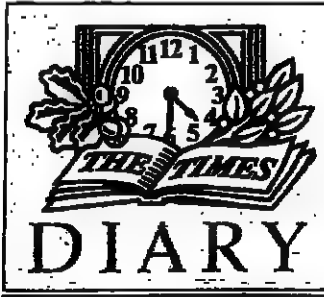
THE PRINCESS of Wales's new "wet-look" hairstyle, which so puzzled New York on Monday night, has created consternation in London. The waxworks team at Madame Tussaud's, which monitors celebrity hairstyles, is standing by.

"We hope she's just experimenting, not radically altering her look," says a spokeswoman. "The last time she really changed her style we had to give her a whole new head."

Win towns

THE BURGHERS of Blackburn are looking with dollar-filled eyes across the Atlantic now that four residents have won more than £20 million in the National Lottery jackpot. The city is considering twinning with America's lottery capital, Fond du Lac in Wisconsin.

Fond du Lac has spawned four multimillion-dollar winners in the past four years, including one couple who won \$11 million. The high street has been renamed Miracle Mile after its lottery outlets, and a delegation from Blackburn



could be imminent. "I've never heard of the town, but winning is something I will discuss with my colleagues," says Blackburn's Mayor, Edna May Arnold.

Wet look II

ALL HANDS were on the pumps yesterday at the British Ambassador's residence in Bonn, as floodwater from the Rhine threatened to turn manicured lawns to swamp.

The water is lapping the terrace where Sir Nigel Broomfield holds elegant cocktail parties on the Queen's birthday. Camellia buds are bobbing downstream. "It has already covered the garden steps leading down to the river," wails my man in galoshes. "But the minister's garden is much worse."

The minister in question is Broomfield's number two, John

Shepherd who has lost his lower lawn. He can draw consolation only from the Ambassador's American counterpart. Gardens at the US ambassadorial residence are under several feet of water.

Pile up

VIVienne WESTWOOD unveiled an unwearable collection of clothes made of carpets on Monday for an advertising campaign to promote Britons' carpetmakers to the Queen. "Of course, you can't really make clothes out of carpets," she said. "Terribly stiff and uncomfortable."

The shockingly innovative designer will most likely have yards of surplus rug on her hands in the near future. "We're thinking of replacing the carpets at our flat in London. They're made of fake leopardskin." Fashion victims would be unwise to hold their breath for her Tartan look.

Stan back

SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS, who celebrates his 80th birthday today, does not leave an entirely untarnished reputation on the field. On the few occasions he used to kick about with RAF Blackpool, where he served as a physical

I HEAR DOUGLAS IS THINKING OF MOVING TO BLACKBURN

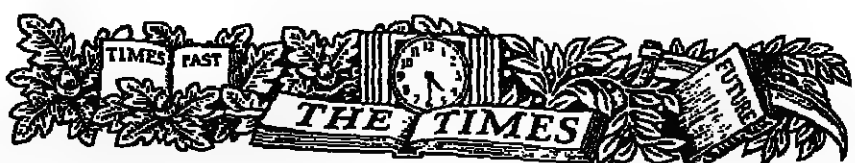


training instructor, he was something of a prima donna, according to a team mate.

"Station football could be pretty rough, and Stan didn't want to get injured, so he used to play himself at left back," recalls Cedric Camp. "I would be at one end of the field attacking and I would look back and see Stan with his arms folded, leaning against the goalpost talking to the goalkeeper. He also used to shout at me a lot during games, telling me what to do, and the others used to say 'Why don't you tell him to get off the goalpost?'"

P-H-S

JP 11/20/95



GOVERNORS OF IRELAND

A framework that is not yet a frame for peace

Today, *The Times* discloses details of the joint framework document for the future of Northern Ireland, which officials have said is "on the last lap" of negotiation. This document, drawn up by the British and Irish Governments, is the blueprint for change upon which the future of the peace process rests. Its details have been long-awaited: they are potentially of far greater importance than the Downing Street declaration which heralded the IRA ceasefire.

The Northern Ireland Office and Dublin will probably claim that the document is not absolutely final and will be further amended before publication. That might be so. The version seen by *The Times* requires more than partial amendment to make it acceptable to the majority in the North. At its heart are proposals for joint authority which most Unionists will find unconscionable. In this form, the document will not secure the consensus in the Province needed for the peace process to become a lasting peace.

Last week, John Major reassured a group of Ulster council leaders that the joint framework document would contain no "provision for the British and Irish Governments to exercise joint authority over the affairs of Northern Ireland". Strictly speaking, his remark was accurate. The proposals in the document as it stands are not for joint authority between Dublin and London but for a similar arrangement between Dublin and the representatives of Ulster's new administrative assembly. The difference is important but not fundamental. The fundamental point is that, under the plan, the Republic would obtain a range of executive responsibilities over the affairs of the North and — most importantly — would be encouraged to seek more.

The new North-South body would have control of "sectors involving a natural, physical all-Ireland framework" and "EC programmes and initiatives". It would also be expected to "harmonise" policy throughout the island in health, education, social services, agriculture and economic affairs. Precisely what is meant by "harmonisation" has never been clear. Brian Faulkner, the

former Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, considered such talk "necessary nonsense" in his dealings with the South at the time of the Sunningdale conference in 1973. But nationalists then — as now — regarded harmonisation of policy across the border as the logical prelude to unification.

The document makes clear that the new institution will extend its powers as the years pass. "The remit of the body," it says, "should be dynamic, enabling progressive extension of its functions to new areas." The disastrous failure of Sunningdale and the Council of Ireland two decades ago should act as a warning to those who believe that cross-border institutions can be established without provoking Unionist outrage.

The Unionists have already made their position on Dublin's involvement in the North clear. They regard the planned administrative assembly as the key to future reform and the development of a mature democracy in the Province. They accept the need for an "all-Ireland dimension" reflected in representation for Dublin on the assembly's committees. But the arrangement set out in the draft document is quite different in spirit and substance. It makes membership of the new body compulsory for departmental heads of the administrative assembly. It makes the body the focus of the reform package. It implies a gradual transfer of sovereignty from the United Kingdom to an institution which the world would come to see as the government of a united Ireland.

Eleven years ago, Margaret Thatcher promised that unification, confederation and joint authority were unacceptable on the ground that they represented a "derogation of sovereignty". A year later, the Anglo-Irish agreement had been signed. Lady Thatcher has since written that she regrets that this deal with Dublin was struck. Far more than the Downing Street declaration, it is the basis of the historic agreement which is now being finalised. A road has been marked out which leads — if it leads anywhere — to joint authority and eventual unification. It is for the British and Irish Governments to prove that it also leads to peace.

ROCKY RAILS

Once lost, services and markets are hard to recover

A predictable storm has greeted the Government's announcement that private rail operators will not have to meet the same strict service requirements on certain routes as British Rail. Tony Blair asked the question that must be on the lips of every frustrated commuter: if privatisation, which has already meant cuts to some services and a reduction in through-ticketing, cannot guarantee the existing level of service, what is the benefit in breaking up the public network?

The Prime Minister's answer is that there is no question of cuts: the heads of the train operating units, the present British Rail shadow franchisees, have promised to improve the service on the four routes dealt with yesterday. Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, went further: the new public service requirements were the first guarantee the public has had that the railways would run a regular and reliable service. The minimum level was set low on viable lines in order to give the commercial operators "space" to improve the service.

The Government shows every sign of being in retreat from its earlier commitments. In January 1993 John MacGregor, then Transport Secretary, gave Parliament an explicit commitment that the franchises would be awarded on the basis of the present timetable. Last December Mr Major modified this by saying they would be "broadly" in line with the timetable. Now Dr Mawhinney requires the Great Western to run only 90 per cent of its services and the Gatwick Express only about 55 per cent.

The promise by the directors of the four

train operating units that they can all exceed the minimum is no guarantee of future service when the commercial franchisees take over from British Rail in 1996. Imaginative marketing and exploitation of the lines' potential should mean better services all round. But this will take time, and money will be tight. Inevitably, the public fears, the minimum service will be the actual service — at least for a while.

Moreover, it looks as though the Government has assumed that cuts will be made. After the confrontation between Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman, and Dr Mawhinney over the threatened cuts in present services because of the £400 million Treasury shortfall, money was restored to fund certain services. These reprieved services are the same as those no longer essential under the future public service requirement.

Dr Mawhinney has a difficult balance to make. If he insists on a high level of service on unprofitable lines, he will drive away even the lukewarm commercial interest. If, however, he sets a low level of service, the inevitable cuts will rouse the public fury that has already surrounded the threat to the Fort William sleeper. His aim must be to make the franchises saleable so that commercial money can be invested in the services. Eventually a bold franchisee will find ways of boosting services and revenue. But for the next three years running the railways will be hugely expensive, forcing BR and then the franchisees to cut services to the bone. Once lost, both services and markets are hard to recover.

LUCK, BE A LASSIE

Oh to break the law of averages

Blackburn used to municipalise the Lancastrian principle that where there's muck there's brass. The fortunes of the mill town have dwindled from its days of soot and shiny metal. But since the arrival of the National Lottery, Blackburn has polished up its name. It has become the Las Vegas of the lottery: where there's Blackburn luck, there is thought to be a better chance of winning.

From the win of £17.8 million by a Blackburn factory worker in the first "rollover" draw to last week's win of £2.3 million by an unemployed single mother, no fewer than four top winners in 11 weeks have come from the town. It has become a black Saturday when that fat finger of fortune does not point down from the sky to select one of the town's 200,000 residents as a millionaire. Such is the superstition of propinquity that punters are driving in from Liverpool to buy their "lucky" tickets in Blackburn, as pilgrims went to Canterbury to improve their luck by a change of address.

Those who try to pick up *Dame Fortune* by loitering where she was last sighted have an average chance of ending up in bed with her disappointing daughter, Miss Fortune. Probability theory states that even when a coin has landed heads 49 times, the odds for and against it landing heads a fiftieth time remain at 50:50 — the same as they were for the first spin. But humankind cannot bear very much of that absurd mathematics. We

think we see a man in the moon. So we detect regularity in the turn of a roulette wheel or the falling balls of the lottery. But our understanding of chance is not as sophisticated as our ability to find order in chaos.

The mathematical laws of large numbers developed from the examples of tossing a coin, rolling a die and drawing a card. In the same way that astronomy grew out of astrology. But most punters find such popular instances of probability more intelligible, and more fun, than any theory. They have a healthy disbelief in statistics and a strong faith in luck. Even Pythagoras, the father of mathematics, thought that there was a divinity in odd numbers.

The official statistics are unsurprising, as statistics generally are. More money is being wagered on the lottery than predicted. Apart from the golden blip of Blackburn, winners have been distributed regularly around the regions. Britain's most successful lottery outlet is the Lombard Street post office in the City of London, where syndicates of workers show that the dash for dosh has not become wholly unfashionable.

Of course we know that random means random. Winning numbers pay no more heed to geography than to four-leaved clovers. But if somebody from Blackburn were to win again, probability theory would address an empty hall. Even Pythagoras would be up there buying his lottery — all odd numbers, for luck, naturally.

Western aid and Chechen crisis

From Mr David J. Walker

Sir, Few of us can have failed to be moved and impressed by the measured tones in the letter from the Chechen Ambassador at Large to the EEC (January 26).

Everyone who has witnessed, even from this distance, the struggle of the Chechen people to reassert their independence and to reverse their conquest by Russia must be overwhelmed by admiration and awe at the determination and heroism of their fighters, and by the steadfast support provided by their people as a whole in the face of a barbaric onslaught.

Russia's response is abhorrent and an affront to civilisation everywhere. There can be no doubt that the Russian empire will be further reduced in size in the coming years, and the only question is how much carnage and suffering will be imposed on its colonised and mistreated neighbours before the empire is finally broken up and contracts to its proper borders.

Meanwhile the craven timidity of the British Government is distressing. Western aid is the support that permits this atrocity to continue, and no strategic imperative dictates that we should connive in holding together a doomed empire.

I urge concerned citizens to lobby their MPs to speak out (Europhiles may wish to ponder also the continuing power of nationalism). And I salute the Chechens.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WALKER,
7 Abingdon Road, W8,
January 26.

Fisheries policy

From Mr James Provan, MEP for South Downs West (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, Those rebel MPs who stood on the quayside at Lowestoft (report, January 26) demanding British withdrawal from the common fisheries policy (CFP) are guilty of helping to lead British farmers up a blind alley if they believe that unilateral withdrawal from the CFP will cure the ills of the industry.

If we did withdraw we should be effectively pulling out of the Community. There would be no effective means of controlling our nation's fishing effort and we should return to pre-CFP days when there was a free-for-all, when we fished herring almost to extinction and only a five-year ban allowed the North Sea stock to recover. Before the CFP came into force almost 500 Spanish boats fished the western waters. Next year, no more than 40 are to be allowed. Spain's full integration into the CFP is tightly linked to no increase in overall fishing effort.

I accept that the CFP is not perfect, but to ditch it with no credible alternative would be madness. The right way forward is to find better approaches to conservation and more rigorous methods of enforcing controls. All EC fishing nations, including the Spaniards, are reducing their fleets to match agreed targets. It is a multinational problem, requiring Community-wide solutions.

I am, yours sincerely,
JAMES PROVAN
(Conservative fisheries spokesman),
European Parliament,
rue Belliard, 1047 Brussels,
January 26.

Car thieves

From Mr Barry Hyman

Sir, Putting aside the issue of the Clegg case, is it possible to encourage the media to stop talking about joyriders, when they mean thieves?

So-called joyriders have killed and maimed innocent people in car crashes: these are the real victims. No more euphemisms please about shop and car thieves, unless the next seedy crook who breaks into your home is to be called a video-lifter.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY HYMAN,
4 Priory View,
Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire,
January 26.

On the list

From Miss Olga Calnan

Sir, I suggest that not only buildings should be listed but so should their immediate surroundings (letters, January 3, 6, 11, 20, 24).

I live in a conservation area; I cannot alter my house without permission. Yet Camden Council has, in the opinion of many residents, ruined the historical townscape of my street by removing all the paving stones and substituting badly laid and unsightly black asphalt. This was done without consultation with residents — a notice sent out by the council mentioned only "road-strengthening measures".

Yours etc,
OLGA CALNAN,
26 Delancy Street, NW1.

Yesterday's letter from Mr Geoffrey Martin should have been headed "From the Head of the Representation in the United Kingdom of the European Commission".

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Versatility of electronic organ music

From Mr Robert Venables, QC

Sir, In the debate over the Bradford organ which the Yves Guilhaume Foundation is donating to the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford (letters, January 28) some positive advantages which a digital organ has over a pipe organ have been overlooked.

Cost aside, the chip can store the specifications of several different organs. The player can switch in seconds from, say, a 17th-century baroque registration in unequal temperament to the more familiar English Edwardian sound. The proposed organ will have initially four different specifications, including a (French) Cavallé-Col, the like of which is not to be found in Oxford. The widely differing musical uses to which the Sheldonian is put make this facility tremendously attractive. A baroque pipe organ would be fine for playing Bach or Buxtehude, but useless for a romantic organ symphony or the works of Messiaen. A facility which enables the player to record his performance and have it recreated afresh will be enormously useful in a university.

While the many traditional pipe organs built in Oxford over the past quarter century have been of largely foreign extraction, the Bradford organ is wholly the fruit of British research in the department of computing science of Bradford University, and its profitable exploitation in partnership with the commercial firm of J. Wood & Sons Ltd.

The Bradford organ will be voiced for the building as sensitively as any pipe organ. The consultant will be the internationally renowned recitalist Simon Preston who, despite his own avowed preference for a pipe organ, has graciously and pragmatically agreed to accept the decision of Oxford University and to help create as fine a digital instrument as possible.

While it cannot be realistically expected that the pride of distinguished musicians who unsuccessfully opposed the experiment will thereby be appeased, the demonstration will give the public the opportunity to make up its own mind.

Yours truly,
ROBERT VENABLES (Director),
The Yves Guilhaume Foundation,
61 Harrington Gardens, SW7,
January 30.

From the Organist and Master of the Choristers, Westminster Abbey

Sir, The debate on the Sheldonian organ should not be affected by the admittedly generous donation of £50,000 for an electronic instrument.

Research hurdles

From Professor Bob Spence, FEng

Sir, For me, research has three essential constituents: visions, plans and opportunistic actions. Professor Braben (letter, January 28) correctly identifies plans as the unfortunate focus of many fund-awarding bodies. Much if not all of my ultimately successful research was initially viewed with scepticism, often by academe from which peer group referees are frequently drawn, and the results — both commercial and conceptual — could in many cases not have been foreseen six months beforehand. Both visions and opportunistic actions played a large and very important part.

The need to formulate plans concentrates the mind beautifully, and this need should not be forgotten. But, like once vitally important items such as banana skins and bus tickets, plans should also be regarded as potentially disposable.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT SPENCE,
1 Regents Close, Whyteleafe, Surrey,
January 28.

Uncoordinated NHS

From Dr Edward Stonehill

Sir, There has been considerable press coverage in recent weeks of NHS doctors spending hours, when minutes may be critical, telephoning around to find intensive care beds. Intensive care is an expensive service and it is inevitable that sometimes beds will be in short supply. Surely there is a lesson to be learnt from the world of commerce.

Every retailer has a stock control system. Is it beyond the ingenuity of the Department of Health to authorise the installation of a nationwide computer network at all acute NHS hospitals so that information on intensive care beds is available to staff at the press of a button? Or perhaps it is beyond the wit of the current administrative staff to provide such co-ordination within a fragmented system. Mrs Bottomley should turn to the senior management at any of our major retail chains where the expertise lies.

Now that the NHS follows some of the rules of a market economy, a co-ordinated computer network could also, in a trice, indicate such information as the shortest waiting time for hip replacement surgery and its cost. The possibilities are boundless. Or will we continue to live in the dark ages and expect our highly trained staff to communicate with one another through carrier pigeon?

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD STONEHILL,
(Executive Medical Director,
Charter Hospitals, London),
Charter Nightingale Hospital,
11-19 Lisson Grove, NW1,
January 23.

In my opinion, no electronic organ has anything like the quality of a good pipe organ, either in its sound or — which is of vital importance to students — in its touch. Would any other faculty of the university be prepared to accept inferior equipment?

As your leader (January 25) surmises, J. S. Bach had he been alive today, might well have come up with something new. But even if he used chips and microcircuits, he surely would not have been satisfied unless the end result were an improvement musically, which electronic organs certainly are not.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN NEARY,
2 Little Cloister,
Westminster Abbey, SW1,
January 25.

From Mr Sean A. Farrell

Sir, As organist of Denstone College, Staffordshire, from 1990 to 1991 I played a digital computer organ which is of the same make and specification as the one in Worcester Cathedral commended by the chairman of the Sheldonian curators (report, January 25). During those 12 months the instrument proved most unreliable on a number of occasions.

To suggest, as does your leader, that organists who prefer pipes are simply behind the times is rather like suggesting that York Minster's south transept roof should have been restored using concrete and steel.

Yours faithfully,
SEAN A. FARRELL
(Assistant Organist),
Wakefield Cathedral, Northgate,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire,
January 26.

From Mr David Watson

Sir, Today's leader entirely misses the mark. Of course electronic instruments have their place. The cathedral-like acoustic of Keble Chapel makes the new electronic organ there a worthy substitute for the college's now defunct pipe organ. But the Sheldonian is neither a resonant cathedral nor a large concert hall. To replace its ailing end-of-Empire pipe organ with an electronic equivalent would be quite inappropriate.

A golden opportunity exists to enhance one of Europe's most beautiful music rooms by installing a modern pipe organ in the classical tradition. That opportunity should be taken.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WATSON,
2a Charlbury Road, Oxford.

Church and 'socialism'

From Mr Richard Hogg

Sir, Your correspondence on the Church of England and "socialism" (January 17, 19, 27) addresses the heart of the problem confronting the Church — its steady decline into a sect.

Of course the Church has a pastoral/social role in society, but this is a secondary activity. It must always be subject to providing that spiritual dimension we all need, and to which many will subscribe. Many of the clergy I meet are so obsessed with social issues that I seriously doubt whether they have any serious understanding of religious experience. I fear they have neither the time nor the inclination to indulge in the depth of contemplation and meditation necessary to achieve a transparent religious dimension. This dimension is fast disappearing from the Church, along with the true believers from the pews.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD HOGG,
18 Clifton Park,
Clifton, Bristol, Avon.

Cornish economy

From Mr Robert Hicks, MP for Cornwall South East (Conservative)

Sir, I was born near Plymouth, have lived and worked in Devon and Cornwall virtually all my life and later this year will have completed 25 years as the MP for Bodmin (pre-1983) and Cornwall South East. I have to say that I did not recognise the part of Cornwall I represent in your correspondent's analysis of the current situation in the county (reports, January 23). Indeed I would suggest that she has done a positive disservice to those in business and commerce, to local authorities such as Caradon District Council, and to organisations and individuals who are seeking to promote and secure Cornwall's future.

There was no mention of the importance to the economy of South-east Cornwall of the winning last year of the Trident re-fit contract at Devonport, the consolidation of HMS Raleigh at Torpoint as the shore-base for the initial training for all the non-officer intake into the Royal Navy, the political significance of the decision to locate the Government's integrated regional office in Plymouth, and the designation of the county as being eligible for both European and UK regional funding. Just outside Saltash we will soon have a 300-acre business park prepared for major inward investment — the largest such facility in Devon and Cornwall.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HICKS,
House of Commons.

Gap in health care for older women

From Mr Ian S. Fentiman

Sir, It is heartening that breast cancer screening is being changed so that two different mammograms will be taken of each breast instead of one (report, January 27). This will lead to some increase in detection rates for early breast cancer.

However, if we must accept that tight budgets mean we cannot do everything, at least we do need to get our priorities right and in this case I believe first call on resources should be screening women aged 65 or over.

Out of 30,000 women who develop breast cancer every year, half are over 65; yet this age group are not invited to come for screening as part of the national programme and have to struggle to get mammography.

In Guernsey, where there is no upper age limit for screening, twice as many cancers have been detected per thousand women screened compared with the UK. Many cancers picked up by screening can be treated without removing the breast and the women have a good chance of being cured.

If nothing else, a feasibility study should be conducted to look at uptake in women aged 65 or over. How much longer will the health of older women be compromised by an apparent lack of interest in detecting potentially curable disease?

Yours faithfully,
IAN S. FENTIMAN
(Deputy Director),
Imperial Cancer Research Fund
Clinical Oncology Unit,
Guy's Hospital, SE1,
January 28.

Rejected history

From Mr James Arnold-Baker

Sir, Following your report, "Historian falls foul of politically correct lobby", and leader, "Academically incorrect" (both January 30), I would like to put into context Oxford University Press's decision not to publish Professor John Vincent's *A Very Short Introduction to History*.

Professor Vincent, a respected scholar who has been published by OUP in the past, was invited to submit a proposal for a volume on history in a series of introductions to a variety of academic disciplines, aimed at sixth-formers, undergraduates, and the general reader.

Advisers' reports on an early draft of the book identified a number of important areas which needed to be covered in greater depth and it was agreed with Professor Vincent that these should be addressed in the final typescript. They included social history, ancient history, and European and American history.

Despite the early identification of these issues, they were not addressed in the final typescript to the extent that OUP felt necessary, given the objectives and intended readership of the series in question.

The question of "inclusive language" or "political correctness" had no bearing whatsoever on OUP's decision not to publish the book.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES ARNOLD-BAKER
(Secretary to the Delegates and Chief Executive),
Oxford University Press,
Walton Street, Oxford,
January 30.

Wet in parts

From Commander Bill Peppi, RN (ret'd)

Sir, You report today that "We" are on course for the wettest January since 1948. "The normal amount of January rain is 1.72in." Where, I wonder?

The average January rainfall here is around 4in. to date we have had 1.2in and since it is raining quite hard just now we are probably on course to be about average.

Yours faithfully,
BILL PEPPE,
Glendymoch Lodge,
Carbost, Isle of Skye,
January 30.

Dressing down

From Major-General Peter Baldwin

Sir, This question of "dressing down" (report and leading article, January 26) goes back a very long way. When I joined the staff of the War Office in 1958 it was clear that I needed a tweed suit to wear on Fridays. We all felt we had to give the impression that we were off to the country at close of play, even though, in my case, it was suburbia.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BALDWIN,
Acoms, Oak End Way,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,
January 26.

Stating the obvious

From Mr Richard Stevenson

Sir, A new sign has appeared in the Central Milton Keynes Shopping Centre.

It reads "Open 7 days a week including Sundays".

Yours faithfully,
R. A. STEVENSON,
67 High Street,
Whitchurch,
Nr Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire,
January 27.

ALEXANDER STAHLBERG

JAMES GRANT

James Grant is survived by his second wife and by three sons from his first marriage.

SIR HENRY LINTOTT

Henry Lintott, who was created KCMG in 1967, leaves his wife, a son and a daughter.

MICHAEL COLEMAN

The heart attack from which he died occurred while he was out running in Brockwell Park in south London. His wife Benita survives him.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ON THIS DAY
February 1 1930

CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO. 1



Far Eastern developers find London both lucky and profitable — but conservationists are worried. Rachel Kelly reports

Just as long as it's not No 4

The refrain became familiar about a year ago. Foreigners are buying in London, and they hail from the Far East, the capital's agents said.

Now, the agents' message has subtly changed. Far Eastern investors are in town, but this time they are not just buying but developing, by it white elephants such as County Hall and Battersea Power Station or brand new residential schemes.

In the process, they have provoked conservationists who fear for the future of some of London's most famous landmarks which have recently changed hands. The historic fabric of buildings, including County Hall and Battersea Power Station, are being allowed to crumble while development plans remain on hold, conservationists say.

Brian Barnes, from the Battersea Power Station Community Group, says: "Battersea's owners, the Hwang brothers from Hong Kong, are standing by while it disintegrates. After 18 months of ownership, the brothers and their company, Parkview International, have done little or nothing to protect the exposed fabric of the power station from the elements."

Mr Barnes was equally concerned about the fate of County Hall, owned by the Japanese firm, Shihyama. Before Christmas, it was announced that Shihyama was abandoning plans to turn part of the building into a hotel.

"It can't be acceptable to Londoners that these two buildings and their sites on the south bank of the Thames are being manipulated by private companies who have few concerns for London's heritage," Mr Barnes says. "It is time this rationalised vandalism was brought to an end."

A spokesman for the Hwang brothers says: "The Hwang brothers are keen to develop the site as quickly as possible. They are going through legal processes at the moment to confirm their ownership of the site. As soon as that is done, they will apply for planning permission. There have been delays in these processes, none of them of the Hwangs' making."

Far Eastern investors have also

recently been involved in some of the biggest new residential schemes in the capital because they believe London property is undervalued.

Stephen Miles-Brown, a partner of Knight Frank & Rutley, says: "In the past year, more than 60 per cent of major residential development deals have involved interest from the Far East, either openly or as a silent partner with a UK developer. They are buying land and building on it for their own home market."

Far Eastern schemes include Charles II Place, a half-completed development in the King's Road, Chelsea, Hampton Gurney Street in Westminster, a block of 68 flats in Fulham called Sailmakers Court, and a scheme in Stanhope Gardens, London SW7.

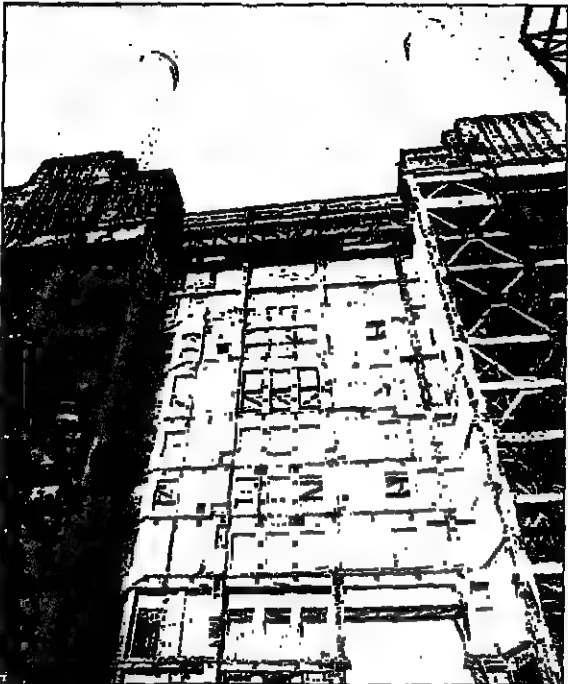
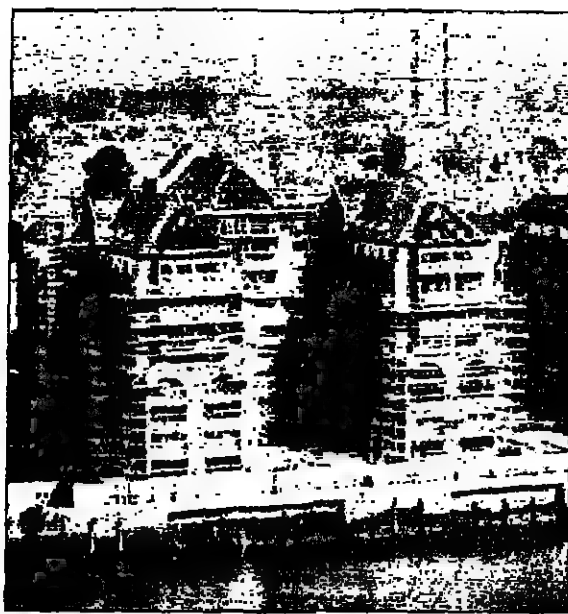
The Sincere Group of Hong Kong are partnering the British firm Regalian in the redevelopment of Alenby House on the Thames opposite Westminster, a modern block which is home to Lord Archer, and to be renamed Peninsula Heights. Hong Kong and Singaporean developers were behind a scheme at 49 Hill Street, Mayfair, for a development of luxury flats.

Investors from Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong believe the UK property is under-valued, Mr Miles-Brown says. "There are also historic ties and a common language."

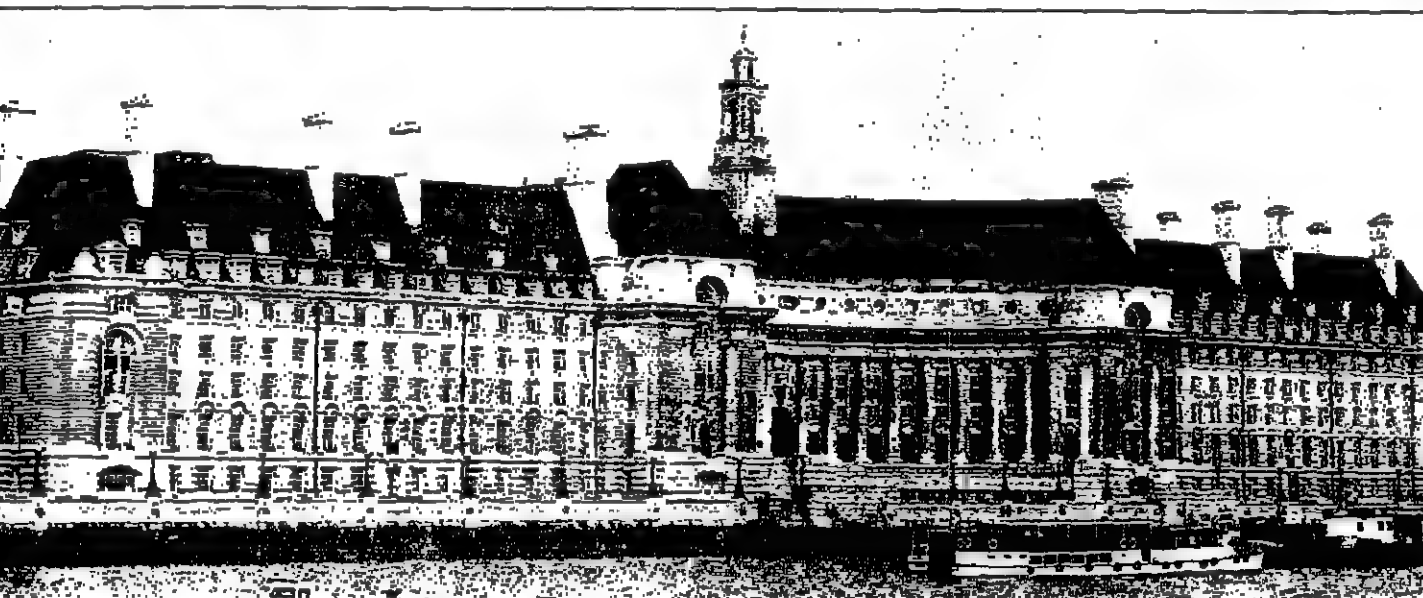
The trend is expected to rise as the 1997 handover of Hong Kong to the Chinese approaches. Robin Paterson, managing director of Cluttons London Residential, says: "We expect even greater investment in London as companies and individuals take the view 'just in case'."

Would-be buyers of Far Eastern financed schemes will often find themselves frustrated. Nick Heritage, of John D Wood, says: "Property that is financed from the Far East is usually marketed in the Far East and is bought, usually unseen, by someone who wants to invest in property in London. The property is then let."

Projects sold direct to Far Eastern buyers tend to feature air-conditioning, tinted glass windows and smaller hallways. Door numbers are adjusted to rid develop-



Far Eastern schemes include, top left, Sailmakers Court in Fulham, 68 flats; bottom left, Battersea Power Station owned by Hong Kong's Hwang brothers; right, Peninsula Heights opposite Westminster, 36 flats; and below, County Hall



ments of the number four, an unlucky number. At Observatory Gardens, for example, where De Groot Collis sold three blocks to a Far Eastern investor, the numbering became three, five, five (a), and six.

But some schemes are targeted at English buyers. The advantage for those seeking to buy is that Far Eastern financed developments are unlikely to be abandoned in the way that some English develop-

ments are as the receivers have stepped in, says Simon Agace, managing director of the London agents Winkworth. If you buy off-plan, your dream is likely to be realised, he says.

Tim Whimney, a director of Savills, says that buyers can expect a similar finish from Far Eastern developers as from British. "The professionals employed by the developer are all geared to working to this market." Thus schemes tend to

have Bosch appliances, tiled bathrooms with power showers, lifts and parking places.

But Andrew Langton, from Ayleston, is also optimistic. "Generally speaking, the developer from the Far East has a much higher standard than UK developers. Such schemes are usually bigger and better, with a greater emphasis on quality, partly because Far Eastern developers take such a long-term view. They spend more

per square foot than their British counterparts."

The other advantage to home-grown buyers is a fresh supply of new schemes on the market which might otherwise not have been developed in a capital which suffers a dearth of new development. The only exceptions are sites close to graveyards, former hospitals, or with roads leading straight up to them. All three signify bad luck, if not death, to those from the Pacific.

ON THE MOVE

Collaring a vicarage

THE demand for old vicarages continues unabated. They have character, good-size rooms and are usually well positioned in their town or village, Paul Jackson, the New Forest agent explains.

This demand is illustrated by the recent sale of two vicarages in the New Forest. The Old Vicarage at Lymington, Hampshire, is a Georgian building with Regency additions, standing close to the town centre and a short stroll from the ancient parish church. The eight-bedroom, four-reception-room house fetched close to the guide price of £320,000.

In Sway, Dial House, the former Sway Vicarage, made headlines some years ago when it was the first property in the New Forest to sell for more than £100,000 at auction. On the outskirts of the village, and standing in two acres, the four-bedroom, three-reception-room house, with its stabling and swimming pool has been sold for £350,000 to a buyer from London.

THE Georgian Group, the national amenity society for the preservation of Georgian architecture, is moving, and, appropriately, is to set up its headquarters in a house by Robert Adam.

The building, in Fitzroy Square, London W1, is part of one of Adam's grandest, but least-known, works in London. Until recently the building was a branch of the National Bank, and it will need some refurbishment before the group moves in at the end of June.

The Georgian Group currently operates from two overcrowded rooms at the top of a house in Spitalfields, and Neil Burton, its secretary, says: "Now we can provide decent working conditions for the staff, and house our archives. We will have several good Adam rooms, and when funds allow we will also be able to build up a property reference collection to help members of the public with their questions about Georgian buildings."

NO 3, The Belvedere, the prominent tower at Chelsea Harbour, may not sound a bargain at £750,000, but the Chelsea agent De Groot Collis explains that the asking price is between £100,000 and £550,000 less than other apartments of equal size available in this London landmark.

Covering the entire third floor, the apartment has a more direct outlook across the marina than apartments on higher floors, and views over the River Thames. It has a large double reception room, a south-facing balcony and four bedrooms.

CHRISTOPHER WARMAN

Don't leave it too late to move

Despite an ageing population, homes for the elderly can be hard to find

What happens to homeowners when they grow old? The issue will affect us all. In 1991, 11.9 million people in Britain were over 60. That will rise to 13.4 million by 2011.

Life expectancy is also lengthening, and the number of over-75s will rise from 3.6 million in 1991 to 6.1 million by 2031. Yet, contrary to popular belief, few old people (just 5 per cent) live in sheltered homes and fewer still (3 per cent) in residential homes.

Most retired people still live in their family home, ideal while they are "young retirees", less appealing as frailty approaches, or a spouse dies, and the upkeep of a house and garden becomes difficult.

At this stage, many older people want to move to something smaller and more secure than their family home, perhaps with a resident warden. Will they have that choice? Just 80,000 sheltered dwellings have been built for sale since the first schemes began in the late 1970s.

Today's over-75s have traditionally rented their homes, and are being catered for with about 700,000 rented sheltered dwellings — provided by local authorities and housing associations — although provision of affordable rented places is being affected by a drop in Housing Corporation grants.

Preference for tenancies is given to people already renting public sector homes, which can then be re-leased to families. But there will soon be an explosion in the number of owner-occupiers reaching retirement age. In 1991, homeowners amounted to 56 per cent of people aged 70 to 79, 62 per cent of 65 to 69-year-olds and 69 per cent of 60 to 64-year-olds.

New sheltered private hous-

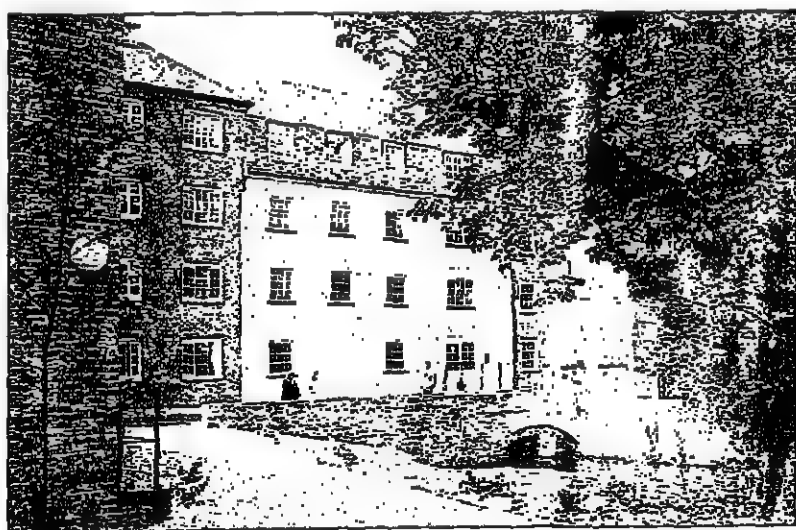
ing has been hit by the poor market, with older householders opting to stay put rather than sell at a low price. Now the fragile market is stirring again, and a backlog of people is waiting to move, says John McCarthy, whose company McCarthy & Stone identified the need for sheltered housing developments 13 years ago.

Such apartments have electric sockets at waist height, taps with grips, and an alarm bell in each room that connects with a warden.

This year we've seen a significant improvement in business flow and a hardening of prices," Mr McCarthy says. "We're trying to replenish stocks and are building 1,200 to 1,500 units throughout Britain this year. Developments of one and two-bedroom flats at Milford on Sea, Hampshire, and Broughty Ferry, Scotland, have just come onto the market at about £60,000 and they're selling very well."

The Pegasus Retirement Group also reports high interest. The Parks, a 42-apartment development at Keynsham, Avon, already has nine flats reserved although the show apartment has yet to open.

But sheltered housing is not always the answer, since service charges are usually about £18 a week for a one-bedroom flat, and £20 to £30 for a two-bedroom flat, including building maintenance such as window cleaning, heat and



Perfect fit: Deans Mill Court in Canterbury, built by McCarthy & Stone

light in the common areas, and a resident warden. Old people tend to live on fixed incomes, 80 per cent of over-65s receive less than £12,000 a year, and if they are not eligible for benefits, any rise in charges can cause hardship.

It also pays to be wary. In the boom years of the late 1980s, some builders simply put sheltered housing wherever they could buy a site without considering its distance from local transport and the facilities people needed such as a post office, shops, a health centre and a library.

"We've got to start looking ahead and planning for the future," Rashida Bharmal, Age Concern's housing policy officer, says. "There's no co-

ordinated policy, nothing coming from central government, and it's very worrying."

Specialist builders point out that there are fewer demands on social services from people living in sheltered homes, since they are less likely to suffer from hypothermia or have accidents, and there is someone on hand to summon help.

The cheapest option, and the one most favoured by 85 per cent of old people, is to stay in their own homes. Community alarms triggered by a pendant or telephone button which connects with a control centre to fetch help — after a fall, for example — are helping an increasing number of people to do this. There are now 400 control centres throughout

Britain, mainly run by local authorities.

Another response is to design new houses for flexibility, with wider doors to allow wheelchair access and downstairs bathrooms. The idea is that a couple should be able to grow old in a home that is built for life. The idea of extending this to all new housing is particularly favoured by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which recently saw such a scheme launched at Runcorn, Cheshire, by the National Federation of Housing Associations.

Brenda Molnar, co-author with Christine Davies of the National Housing Forum's report, *All Our Tomorrows, Housing and Older People*, feels there is an overall failure to grasp the nettle. "Sheltered housing should continue, but the Department of Health is not co-operating with the Environment Department to decide what housing should be built. There's a total failure to be concerned about the future of housing for elderly people, given that the elderly population is increasing," she says.

"There's little discussion because people don't want to think about becoming old and frail and tend to wait until it happens. When it does, they discover that the options available are very limited. Women tend to live longer than men, and it is when a woman is widowed that suitability of housing is considered, especially if the couple have retired

to the country and she cannot drive or manage the house and garden."

Ms Bharmal says it is important to look into sheltered accommodation long before one needs it. "People are reluctant to leave a home and its memories, but if they move into more manageable accommodation when they're more active, they can develop contact with people, endow it with memories and age in what feels like their home rather than having to move when they're 80 and their partner has just died. But, judging from the number of calls I get, it's not always easy to find the right kind of accommodation to buy."

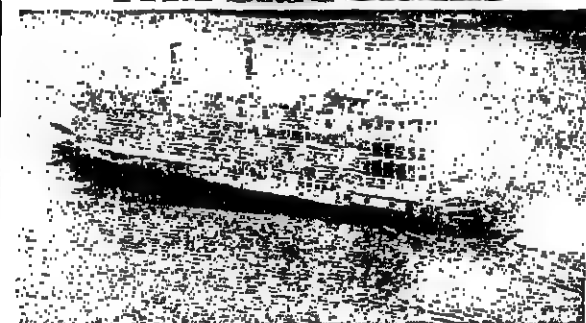
The Elderly Accommodation Council is compiling data which will be available in six months on private schemes. The council already offers information on other types of accommodation, and notes a need for sheltered private housing that offers more than just emergency care while enabling frail, elderly people to retain independence and dignity.

Ray Walker, a planning and housing expert and secretary of the Association of Retirement Housing Managers, agrees that much more needs to be done. "The critical social change which we have yet to come to terms with is that many more Britons are entering old age as owner-occupiers. There is a striking absence of local and national strategies," he says. "Everyone is running away from confronting the challenges we all face as the number of over-65s grows in coming years."

CHRISTINE WEBB

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The language of success



BRENDA MADDOX

When viewers start yawning at O.J. Simpson, you get the measure of the problem. There are few news stories whose popular interest transcends national boundaries. Even a Hollywood sex 'n' sports murder mystery begins to take on the dull dreary status of a faraway election or foreign war: Over-Covered, Over There.

Pity, then, those who have set their sights on creating a business out of international television news. The bleak global prospects may hold the answer in another mystery. Why, last Friday, out of the blue, did David Gordon resign as chief executive of Independent Television News after only two years in the job?

Gordon, 53, is no career grasshopper. Before moving to ITN in 1993, he had been for a quarter century at *The Economist*: 12 years as chief executive of its worldwide publishing enterprise after 13 years as business editor and humble hack. It hardly seems in

keeping for such a stable character to move into a new organisation and new medium, then to back out — especially as he was so obviously enjoying the fight against the BBC's claims to be selling a global world news service without cross-subsidisation from the licence fee.

Not that Gordon and ITN's explanation for his departure is implausible. ITN is now a reshaped, lean, stable, profitable company. Its glass palace in Gray's Inn Road has just secured a tenant for its last empty floor. A new alliance with Ted Turner's Cable News Network will soon be announced.

The rumours around the resignation are not implausible, either: that Gordon had a falling-out with Michael Green, the ITN chairman. If so, he would not be the

first. Green is gifted but prickly. When it comes to ITN, Green is particularly powerful — not only its chairman but through his Carlton and Central Television interests, owner of about a third of it.

But for ITN, the handwriting was on the wall. The wonder is why anyone has been to Harvard Business School should have taken so long to read it because it said: "ITN is boxed in at home and abroad." Boxed in at home because ITN's main business is supplying news to ITV and Channel 4, and likely to remain so. And abroad because CNN has an overwhelming lead as an international news network and, prestige apart, has not a lot to show for it. In 1993 CNN International contributed only \$93 million to the \$600 million earned by all of the

Turner news operations. It was never on the cards, in other words, for Gordon to be able to do with ITN what he did with *The Economist*: turn a classy domestic moneyspinner into a classy international one. And only part-right for Green to assert in the ITN annual report that the proliferation of television channels

means "a growing appetite for high-quality news programmes".

So there is. But not for programmes in English. Around the world, TV news suppliers are waking up to the obvious: local audiences like local languages. For the past year, Star TV, the Hong Kong-based network, has been putting its entertainment channels into Malay, Cantonese and other indigenous languages. MTV, the pop music channel, is doing the same in India. Reuters Television puts out a fantastically successful news programme, *Here and Now*, from Moscow, attracting more than 70 million viewers. It does it in Russian, not English.

For similar reasons, plans to develop an international counterpart to Sky News seem to be on hold. It is not widely realised that

any all-news network must squeeze itself onto a cable system. Such a channel is inherently specialised — something for a cable operator to offer as one attraction in a multichannel package: a prestige product, to be carried on as a dip-in, dip-out service. Nobody expects it to draw a large, sustained audience.

In the United States, CNN attracts only 1.9 per cent of viewing households over a 24-hour day. In Britain, the audience for Sky News (part owned by News International, parent company of *The Times*) is small — averaging about 24,000 a day. Its most popular programme, *Live at Five*, draws between 70,000 and 80,000, in contrast to the million or so drawn by Sky One, the entertainment channel, for a hit such as *The*

Simpsons. What's more, cable systems are full: in Britain, in Germany, in America.

Why should a cable operator drop something more popular in order to put a news channel on, especially if he already has one, in the national language? There will be a market for world news channels in English — eventually. But only when there is cable capacity to spare and more satellites. CNN and Reuters, among others, suffered a setback last week when a Chinese communications satellite, which would have improved Far East penetration, exploded on launch.

For the moment, ITN seems to have recognised that the day of the profitable, English-language, worldwide competitor to CNN is pretty distant. Will the BBC World Television Service come to realise that "brand name" is not enough if all you speak is English? But because its global venture is backed by Pearson, perhaps the BBC can afford to wait.

Twenty names have been put forward for the editorship of *The Observer*. Alexandra Frean looks at the most likely candidates

CANDIDATE
Will Hutton

Ambitious economics editor of the *Guardian*. Has been interviewed



CANDIDATE
Polly Toynbee

Social affairs editor of the BBC. Failed in 1988



SELECTOR
Hugo Young

Chairman of the Independent Trust which runs the two titles



SELECTOR
Peter Preston

Many think he would be the ideal candidate to be editor

The battle for Britain's oldest Sunday paper

A puff of white smoke will emerge from The Guardian Media Group's Farrington Road headquarters in central London within the next few days, indicating that the long hard search for a new editor of *The Observer* is finally over.

With no obvious front-runner and no clear consensus among the seven-strong committee that has been convened to find a candidate to fill the post, speculation in Fleet Street about the identity of the 12th editor of Britain's oldest national Sunday newspaper, has become feverish and, at times, fairly ridiculous.

The (all male) appointments committee includes Peter Preston, *The Guardian's* long-serving Editor who is soon to become Editor-in-Chief of both his paper and *The Observer*; Hugo Young, chairman of the Scott Trust (the independent board which runs the two titles) and Jim Markwick, the group managing director.

They are joined by Anthony Sampson, a former *Observer* journalist and Michael Unger, Editor of the *Manchester Evening News*. Jonathan Wilson, chief sub-editor on *The Observer's* city desk, and Andrew Billen, a feature writer on the paper.

In making the appointment, the committee is honour-bound to take account of the views of the paper's staff. This rather chummy approach, newly borrowed from *The Guardian*, is far removed from the exercise of proprietorial power common in most newspapers. It will do nothing, however, to ease the single biggest problem the committee members face — the apparent lack of candidates on the bench left who also have the technical competence to edit a national newspaper.

Such a dearth of suitable contenders is uncharacteristic in an industry driven by ambition and renowned for its competitiveness.

Under the editorship of Lord Penby, installed at the behest of Mr Preston in 1993 within days of the

Guardian group's £27 million acquisition of the paper, *The Observer* packed its punches with a number of scoops, notably revelations about the Government's secret contacts with the IRA before the Downing Street declaration in December 1993. But it also lost flair and became locked into a way of thinking that made the paper worthy but dull.

The Guardian group is determined to stem *The Observer's* (not inconsiderable) financial losses and to reinvent it as a distinct, serious paper of strong ideas. That, after all, is what broadsheet Sunday papers are for. The group's senior managers believe that simply turning it into a sort of *Guardian* on Sunday would not be enough to satisfy the dual commercial imperatives of seeing off the *Independent on Sunday* and providing a credible alternative to *The Sunday Times* and the increasingly popular *Sunday Telegraph*.

Around 20 people have so far put themselves up for the post. At least six ambitious *Observer* insiders have applied and have submitted to the committee personal manifestos outlining their vision for the paper's future.

They include John Price, the deputy editor who has been running the show since Mr Penby's

departure two weeks ago, Adrian Hamilton, leader page writer, Melanie Phillips, a columnist, David Rose, home affairs correspondent, and Michael Pilgrim, editor of the paper's *Life* magazine. Michael Stent, a sub-editor, is also said to have put his name forward. (Roger Alton, features editor of *The Guardian*, says that reports suggesting he is in the running for the job are "preposterous".) With such a wide field of inside candidates, few of whom have hands-on experi-

With such a wide field of candidates, few with hands-on experience, the smart money is on an outsider

ence of editing a paper, the smart money is on an outsider. But who? Magnus Linklater, 52, former Editor of *The Scotsman*, and Stewart Steven, 57, Editor of the *London Evening Standard*, are said not to be interested. Eve Pollard, who has edited both the *Sunday Mirror* and *Sunday Express*, would probably be interested but has not been interviewed. Another candidate mentioned is the ambitious Andrew Jaspam, newly-appointed editor of *The Scotsman*.

Once considered the front-runner, Ian Jack, 49, Editor of the *Independent on Sunday*, has not even applied. Mr Jack's page-one splash two weeks ago about the role of Cherie Booth, the barrister wife of the Labour leader Tony Blair, in prosecuting poll tax defaulters, is said not to have gone down well at the Guardian group anyway.

But if the new editor's primary aim was to strengthen *The Observer* by destabilising the *Independent on Sunday*, Mr Jack would have been the perfect candidate — especially if he had managed to persuade "Sindy" stars such as Neil Aspin and Alan Watkins to join him.

Polly Toynbee, who worked on both *The Guardian* and *The Observer* before becoming the BBC's social affairs editor in 1988, has been interviewed for the job, as has Will Hutton, *The Guardian's* trenchant economic commentator. Some believe Toynbee might be one of the few candidates actually to benefit from, and maybe even appreciate, having Mr Preston in situ as Editor-in-Chief, but the fact that she tried and failed to capture the job when it was last up for grabs in 1993 might well count against her.

The great irony is that the ideal candidate for the job is Mr Preston himself. Although he is said not to

be keen on the idea, it was he who led the takeover of *The Observer* and maintained sales of *The Guardian* without joining the price-cutting war, and who is pushing for the current changes. It would, of course, be a high-risk strategy for him personally, after 20 successful years at *The Guardian*, to take on single-handedly such a potentially perilous task.

Guardian group insiders deny that they are finding it difficult to choose a successor to Mr Penby, pointing out that they had first to appoint an editor to *The Guardian* (Alan Rusbridger takes up that position in two weeks' time) before they could begin sorting out *The Observer*.

Launched in 1791 by W.S. Bourne, an impetuous but resourceful young Irishman, as a high-principled anti-government paper, it had changed allegiances by the mid-19th century and established close links with the Government.

As that time it even published editorials in support of its foreign policy written by Lord Palmerston, who very kindly arranged payments to the paper from Secret Service funds. The paper is no stranger to financial worries either. When Alfred Harmsworth, later Viscount Northcliffe, bought it in 1905, he described it as "lying in the Fleet Ditch". While its current state is nowhere near that bad, it is widely agreed that it has taken the *Guardian* group longer than expected to turn round the paper's fortunes. With circulation at 467,969, *The Observer* is now selling 37,500 fewer copies every week than it was when the group bought it.

Whoever wins *The Observer* editorship faces the huge task of repositioning it as a vibrant left-of-centre paper capable of winning back many of the readers — particularly women and the young — who have defected to the right-of-centre heavies which currently dominate the Sunday market.

Journalists prefer one boss, not two

No editor worth his chair would welcome the tutelage of a superior

Peter Preston, the retiring Editor of *The Guardian*, has taken quite a gamble with *The Observer*, Britain's oldest Sunday newspaper, which the Guardian group bought less than two years ago. He is assuming the title of Editor-in-Chief of both *The Guardian* and *The Observer* and, on precedent, that is a non-job. No editor worth his chair would welcome sitting under the tutelage of a superior, however distinguished, closely watching his every move. It would not help his morale one iota. Worse, it would not help to lift spirits among the staff. Journalists prefer one boss, not two.

Questions of morale and confidence are important to editorial staff. If that level is low, then journalists tend to operate below par, ideas don't flow, sparks don't fly. If on the other hand staff are happy and know what the paper is trying to do, they will tackle their work with zest, a powerful current of ideas flows and readers come back in their thousands.

Peter Preston may have believed he was doing *The Observer* a good turn by becoming Editor-in-Chief. His retirement as editor has been marked by many justified tributes to the distinction of his reign and the success of the paper in holding its core readership while refusing to follow the cost-cutters. But Denis Hamilton was equally successful as Editor of *The Sunday Times* in the 1960s. As Editor-in-Chief and chief executive his touch was less sure.

Max Hastings is Editor-in-Chief of *Telegraph Newspapers*, but he is also Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, and no one can doubt where his main interests lie. Before him Lord Hartwell was Editor-in-Chief of the two *Telegraphs* but also the chief proprietor and chairman: no one can claim this combination was a success, leading as it did to

the takeover by Conrad Black. Sir David English is Editor-in-Chief of Associated Newspapers, but also chairman and is inevitably somewhat aloof from day-to-day editing.

The Guardian group is now going through an elaborate selection process to find a new editor of *The Observer*, the journalists as well as the Scott Trust are involved. To everyone's satisfaction a similar exercise resulted in the appointment of Alan Rusbridger as the new Editor of *The Guardian*, perhaps prompting the question of why wasn't he offered *The Observer* when the Guardian group first moved in 18 months ago?

The Sunday paper is a less attractive proposition. It is now running a poor third among the Sunday broadsheets — 860,000 behind *The Sunday Times* and almost 200,000 behind *The Sunday Telegraph*. There is no margin for the loss of old readers before new ones are recruited.

And who will be the new face of the paper? Writing in *The Guardian* last week David McKie revealed that on the day Rusbridger was appointed the newspaper had entertained off the record "an immensely distinguished national figure".

Here's another poser for the editor-in-chief elect. Who will preside when the next distinguished visitor comes along? The editor or his immediate superior? The answer should be clear: there can be only one editor. But is it?

The name of the new editor is due to be announced this week. But the uncertainties surrounding his or her authority might have pushed the calibre of candidates below expectations. Maybe a further search will be required.

CHARLES WINTOUR
The author is a former Editor of *The Evening Standard*



David English: aloof from editing

Taggart's arresting allure

THE first episode of a three-part *Taggart* edition, in which the late Mark McManus made his last appearance as the Glasgow detective, was predictably popular in the Scottish Television region, *Alexandra Frean* writes. John Thaw's new courtroom drama series, *Remembrance*, QC, on the other hand, was appreciated more by viewers in and around the London region served by Carlton Television during the week and London Weekend Television at the weekend. It is no surprise that Thaw, best remembered as *Inspector Morse*, the Oxford detective, should appeal more to

southern audiences. But other findings of our chart, which compares the top ten programmes among STV viewers and Carlton/LWT audiences, are less easily explained. BBC1's *Holiday* programme, number four north of the border, does not even appear in the London chart.

Though audiences served by STV are smaller in absolute numbers, the TVR column in our chart — which measures the percentage of viewers within each category watching individual programmes — suggests that on any given evening a greater proportion of viewers in this region is watching television than in London.

British businesses have still to learn what marketing is all about, according to a new study

A group of senior businessmen, backed by the Government, last week exhorted marketers to start marketing marketing. They are pushing for the creation of a UK Marketing Council charged with getting marketers to speak with one voice and UK companies to focus on the critical importance of customer satisfaction.

The move is the result of collaboration between Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, Sir Michael Perry, Unilever's chairman, George Bull, chief executive of Grand Metropolitan, Sir John Egan, BAA's chief executive and Sir Alistair Grant, the chairman of Argill. It follows an Employment Department-funded study last year which drew attention to the low status of marketing in many British companies.

Marketing, says the study, has a bad image. Its role is often restricted to advertising and branding and its glitzy, out-to-lunch image overshadows its role in identifying revenue-generating opportunities. Training of marketing staff lacks quality, it continues. Overall, there is a notable weakness in marketing and this is undermining the competitiveness of UK businesses.

Forget the glitz, does the customer want it?



Richard Branson: a master of marketing

Marketing, says Sir Colin Marshall, leader of the group, is all about providing satisfaction to customers and should therefore be the driving force behind business. Yet while British companies are competing with world class, marketing-led companies in international markets, if you look around the British company boardrooms you will find very few people who have any acknowledged marketing experience.

The new Marketing Council, to be launched in September, will draw together bodies like the Chartered Institute of Marketing and the Marketing Society as well as senior business people in an attempt to tackle this catalogue of failings. According to chief

executives interviewed for the study, brands have poor, short-term attitudes and the public still sees making a profit as a bad thing.

There is an enormous amount of confusion about what marketing actually is. Too many people equate it with sales or advertising, says Stephen Woodward, chairman of the Marketing Society. Being sales-led is all about

producing products and then trying to sell them, rather than discovering what people like in the first place. Advertising and branding is just the tip of the iceberg: it is the strategy underneath that really matters.

Painstaking market research may, for example, identify a gap in the market or the need for a different type of product. This insight might result in changes in a company's manufacturing process or purchasing policies.

The Marketing Council's task is further complicated by continuing debate about whether marketing is an overall philosophy or a technical skill carried out by a separate, specialist department.

Many consummate marketers, like Richard Branson,

make a point of boasting that they have never read a book about marketing in their lives. And many of the most formidable marketing companies in the world, such as the Japanese consumer electronics firms, do not have separate marketing departments.

It is now accepted that everyone in a company needs to know at least the basics to have some sort of customer orientation, points out Dr Chris Graff of First Choice Marketing, the consultants who conducted the study.

Dr John Stubbs, a senior marketer seconded to head the project from Unilever, agrees that outstanding marketing skills are not just a matter for the marketing department, but lie in the way the company is organised. Initially, the new council will focus on improving training standards and helping firms to identify best practice.

Sir Colin Marshall says: "We want marketing to be seen as the driving force behind business. The Marketing Council will be committed to moving marketing from an ancillary activity to a pivotal position in UK commerce and industry."

ALAN MITCHELL

THE TIMES TV TOP 20: REGIONS WATCHING MOST AND LEAST

January 9 to 15, 1995

Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Genre	Audience (millions)	TVR
1. <i>EastEnders</i>	Thu 12	19.31	BBC1	S soap	3.3	30.4
2. <i>Coronation Street</i>	Mon 09	19.30	BBC1	S soap	3.2	29.5
3. <i>A Touch of Frost</i>	Sun 15	20.31	ITV	Drama series	2.6	24.3
4. <i>The National Lottery Live</i>	Sat 14	19.50	BBC1	Drama series	2.6	23.7
5. <i>Crusaders</i>	Sat 14	20.07	BBC1	Drama series	2.5	23.5
6. <i>Crusaders</i>	Sat 14	19.19	ITV	Drama series	2.5	22.6
7. <i>Newsnight</i>	Tue 10	20.30	BBC1	Documentary	2.4	21.8
8. <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i>	Thu 12	20.00	BBC1	Comedy	2.3	21.6
9. <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i>	Sun 15	17.20	BBC1	Comedy	2.3	21.5
10. <i>The Glass Virgin</i>	Fri 18	21.01	ITV	Drama series	2.3	21.5
11. <i>Coronation Street</i>	Mon 09	19.30	ITV	S soap	1.2	34.6
12. <i>Taggart</i>	Wed 11	21.02	ITV	Drama series	1.1	31.5
13. <i>Taggart</i>	Thu 12	19.31	BBC1	S soap	1.0	30.5
14. <i>Taggart</i>	Tue 10	19.01	BBC1	S soap	1.0	28.4
15. <i>The National Lottery Live</i>	Sat 14	20.07	BBC1	Drama series	0.9	28.1
16. <i>Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway</i>	Mon 09	21.01	ITV	Comedy	0.9	27.3
17. <i>High Road</i>	Fri 18	20.02	ITV	Drama series	0.9	27.2
18. <i>The Glass Virgin</i>	Sat 14	18.14	ITV	Drama series	0.9	27.3

Source: Broadcasters' Audience Research Board/David Graham & Associates (0822-322624)
Figures are unrounded and rounded. Highest editions per week only. Incomplete national transmission marked (*).
Regional transmissions not aggregated. Highest editions per week only. Incomplete national transmission marked (*).



SECRETARIAL 32

For the confident, now is the time to seek a new job



ARTS 35-37

A brief but moving history of time for the Queen's House



FOCUS 38

How young deaf people are sounding out

TODAY'S
SPORTS
FIXTURES
Page 40

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1 1995

C&G aims to open up new front in mortgage war

By Robert Miller

THE Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society yesterday attempted to open up a new front in the mortgage war by promising to undercut the base mortgage rate of the top five lenders by at least 0.25 per cent for the remainder of 1995.

But other leading lenders last night dismissed the C&G move as a public relations exercise and indicated that they were unlikely to follow suit. They said that C&G had been forced to make the "Mortgage Price Promise" as a conciliatory

gesture towards its 375,000 mortgage borrowers who will not share in the bonus payout under the proposed £1.8 billion takeover of the society by Lloyds Bank.

Later this month, C&G will mail members with the transfer documents relating to the takeover prior to the crucial vote being cast in March. For the deal to proceed, more than half of the society's borrowers will have to vote in favour of the terms.

Nationwide, the UK's second-largest society, which has a standard mortgage rate of 8.44 per cent,

said: "The C&G is a niche player and we have a much larger customer base. We think that our mortgage range, which includes a 1 per cent discount on the variable loan rate for seven years, is already competitive."

David Gilchrist, general manager of the Halifax, which set a new variable mortgage rate of 8.35 per cent earlier this month, said: "We intend to remain competitive in the total mortgage market. We are more concerned about the proposed cuts in DSS mortgage income support payments. We are still

pressing the Government to abandon this tack. It will damage the already fragile recovery of the housing market and prospects for the growth of homeownership in the UK."

The C&G mortgage promise will apply to new borrowers as well as existing borrowers, of whom at least 75 per cent are on annual payment reviews. These borrowers have had their monthly mortgage repayments set at the society's present variable rate of 8.1 per cent.

The C&G added: "C&G is not following the Halifax and other

leaders who have recently increased their mortgage rates. Under Mortgage Price Promise procedures, C&G will review its mortgage rates every month and then make any adjustment on the first of the following month. The first such review will be in April, with a possible rate adjustment on May 1."

In a letter to existing borrowers, John Bays, chairman of the C&G, said the mortgage promise would not be affected if the Lloyds deal did not proceed. He added: "At this stage, I can give you no guarantee

about extending C&G's Mortgage Promise into 1996, but I do believe that joining the Lloyds bank group is the best way of securing competitive rates for C&G borrowers in the future."

The C&G declined to put a figure on how much its price-cutting exercise would cost. But a spokeswoman said: "It is money very well spent. We want to reward the loyalty of our existing borrowers and attract new customers right across the mortgage books."

Pennington, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	2861.8	(-4.3)
Yield	4.32%	
FT-SE All share	1480.56	(-2.89)
Nickel	1884.82	(-103.05)
New York		
Dow Jones	3844.53	(+12.45)*
S&P Composite	470.20	(+1.69)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Long Bond	97 1/4	(97 1/2)
Yield	7.73%	(7.78%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Libor long gilt	101 1/4	(101 1/4)

STERLING

New York	1.5824	(1.5950)
London		
\$	1.2791	(1.2820)
DM	2.4108	(2.3874)
FF	3.2580	(3.2180)
SFR	2.2015	(2.2216)
Yen	157.27	(156.73)
£ Index	79.8	(79.8)

DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.3240	(1.3053)
FF	2.2850	(2.2240)
SFR	1.2840	(1.2675)
Yen	98.45	(98.43)
£ Index	82.5	(82.3)

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$16.80	(\$16.45)
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GOLD

London close	\$374.88	(\$375.88)
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* denotes midday trading price

Governor says UK cycle has peaked

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday that the economy had passed the highest point of its cycle, but he added that he was still committed to the strategy of raising interest rates in small steps to prevent inflation building up.

In an interview with the French newspaper *Les Echos* which had London's financial markets scurrying for the correct interpretation, Mr George said that financial markets were exaggerating inflationary pressures and the extent to which interest rates would have to rise — a view he has repeatedly expressed over the past few months.

He noted various indicators, including retail sales and industrial output, which had slowed at the end of last year. But he then told reporters in Paris that the small slowdown in overall gross domestic product reported for the fourth quarter was not yet confirmed and that growth was still above its long-term sustainable trend.

Small upward moves in interest rates, perhaps earlier than the markets expected, were central to a strategy designed to avoid the "savage" rises in interest rates seen in the past.

In an initial reaction to Mr George's remarks, the gilt market and the short sterling futures contract, which reflects market expectations for interest rates, bounced in belief that he would not press for another half-point rise at tomorrow's monetary meeting with Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.

But after reflection, markets decided that Mr George is still likely to advise another rise in interest rates, if not at this week's meeting, then next month. They seized on another remark in which he suggested that a rise in US interest rates this week would make an increase in British rates more likely, although that would be only one factor in coming to a judgment. He said that, in global terms, "we have entered a period where the trend is more towards increases in

interest rates rather than stability".

The financial markets are widely expecting the US Federal Reserve to raise US interest rates by another half point after its two-day Federal Open Market Committee meeting, which ends today.

Mr George also used his trip to Paris to express misgivings about a single European currency and politicians' assertions that the single currency and monetary union could be achieved by 1997.

He said in a speech to bankers that he understood the importance attached to the Maastricht timetable, but added: "I nevertheless find it difficult to judge now whether or when the necessary economic conditions can or will be met."

Highlighting some aspects of a single currency, he noted that "once parties are locked there is absolutely no safety valve comparable to realignment". Different rates of productivity or earnings growth could create serious strains.

"Inadequate convergence would be likely to mean slower growth and higher or more rapidly rising unemployment in some countries," he said. This imbalance could be addressed only through long-term stagnation and unemployment in some part of the monetary union, migration or tax transfers to the high unemployment countries.

Those are not particularly attractive options, he said. □ The Confederation of British Industry's Pay Databank showed that awards in manufacturing averaged 3.1 per cent in the three months ending December 31, compared with 3.2 per cent in the three months ending in November. In the service sector, awards averaged 3.5 per cent against 4.1 per cent previously.

The number of firms freezing pay rose to just under one in seven manufacturers and one in four service sector firms.

Robbie Gilbert, CBI employment affairs director, said: "Certainly there is no sign that pay increases are leaping ahead."



Battle victory: Tom Kirby, chief executive of Games Workshop Group, the war games maker and retailer, saw pre-tax profits surge by 28 per cent to £2.47 million in the six months to November 27. The interim dividend is 1.5p, due on April 28.

Rover has best year since 1989

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

OUTPUT at Rover, the British car manufacturer, rose 16 per cent last year to 478,000 vehicles, its best performance since 1989, buoyed by strong demand for the 600 series and surging sales of the four-wheel-drive Discovery (Colin Narborough writes).

Demand in continental Europe for Rovers jumped 16 per cent last year, outpacing the 3 per cent growth in Britain. Despite the stronger demand from across the Channel, Rover's market share in Europe was unchanged at 3.2 per cent.

BMW, which acquired Rover from British Aerospace for £800 million last year, said that Rover was still operating its plants at full capacity and had restored output to pre-recession levels, taking on an extra 2,000 production line workers.

BMW described its 1994 profit as satisfactory, but it will not release the figures until the end of next month.

BT job cutting to end, MPs told

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BT yesterday abandoned its programme of company-wide redundancies after cutting 100,000 jobs over the past five years.

The company said that its current wave of job losses — thought to be about 15,000 this year — is expected to be the last, with any future job cuts going through normal staff wastage.

BT's declaration is likely to take City analysts by surprise, since it had been widely expected that the company would want to continue to reduce its workforce, as technology changed and more competitors entered telecommunications, until its payroll was below 100,000. It is likely to be 130,000 by the end of the year.

Sir Iain Vallance, BT chairman, announced the change in evidence to the Commons employment committee. "I hope very much that the company-wide redundancy scheme will be the last one," he said. BT has put in place each

year recently a number of redundancy programmes called "Release", under the latest of which, Release 95, it expects to reduce its headcount further, by 15,000. In March 1989, BT employed 244,418. By the end of last year, the payroll was 145,413.

In written evidence to the committee, BT said that all job cuts had been by voluntary redundancies, and without disruption to services or industrial relations.

According to BT, of employees who left in the 1992 and 1993 schemes, only 19 per cent were left unemployed and 64 per cent of those in work had found jobs within six months of leaving BT, with many now working for its competitors.

Sir Iain said: "Beyond 1995-96 we would hope that normal losses and resourcing activities will be sufficient to deal with any changes in BT's staffing requirements although there may still need to be some localised schemes."

North Sea oil output rises 25%

By Carl Mortished

NORTH SEA oil production has risen 25 per cent to its highest levels for more than eight years. Revenue from oil and gas sales continues to benefit Britain's gross domestic product and current account, but oil group profits and tax revenue to the Treasury are being kept in check by competitive oil prices.

The average price of Brent crude fell 7 per cent to \$15.91 last year, the lowest level since 1988.

Oil production in December reached 2.71 million barrels per day, just short of the all-time record of 2.82 million bpd in 1985. Revenues from oil and gas contributed £37 million a day to Britain.

Mark Shea, energy economist at the Royal Bank of Scotland, said: "Average oil and gas revenues rose 11 per cent over 1993, but North Sea oil companies may be slightly disappointed with this return given the rise in oil output."

Hopes that increasing demand for energy would boost oil prices have been dashed by a mild winter and continuing growth in supply from non-Opec countries. Flooding on the Rhine has added to the problem: transport problems have left Rotterdam refineries overstocked with fuel oil.

Pennington, page 25

Top gear

British companies are showing the highest expectations for employment throughout Europe according to a survey by the European Chambers of Commerce. West Germany produced the greatest degree of pessimism. Page 24

Overdrive

General Motors made \$17 million every day between October and December, which drove the world's biggest carmaker to a better-than-expected fourth quarter and record annual results. GM made \$4.9 billion for the year. Page 25

BCCI creditors hope for summer payment

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent



Smouha: negotiator

CREDITORS of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International should receive their first payment this summer after four years of legal wrangling that started with the failure of the bank in 1991.

A \$1.8 billion compensation deal from the Abu Dhabi authorities, the bank's majority shareholders, required court approval in England, the Cayman Islands and Luxembourg. The Luxembourg court yesterday became the last of the three to approve the deal, negotiated by Brian Smouha, a partner of Touche Ross, one of the bank's liquidators.

Georges Baden, one of the bank's court-

appointed Luxembourg liquidators, said that depositors should receive a payment of 15p in the pound, with the first payment likely to be made in the summer. Fred Goodwin, a Touche partner, said that creditors could receive up to 20p in the pound in July if another settlement with the Saudis is approved by the Luxembourg court next month.

About 35,000 creditors in England and Wales should benefit, though dividends to smaller creditors who held sterling deposits in the UK and who have been compensated by the Bank of England's deposit protection scheme will be repaid to the Bank. The Bank said yesterday that 19,500 people had applied for compensation and almost 18,000 cases had been settled. The value of the compensation

paid stands at £76.4 million. The BCCI Depositors Protection Association welcomed the court approval.

However, a group representing former staff of BCCI is considering an appeal. Final approval from the Luxembourg court could therefore be delayed, though the liquidators hope to know for certain by April 15.

The liquidators do not know how many of the bank's 530,000 creditors worldwide will share in the deal. Some branches of the bank are making separate arrangements and are not taking part in a pooling scheme. Some estimates of the numbers of creditors likely to benefit from the compensation deal run as high as 250,000, though between 50,000 and 60,000 is more likely.

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UK at peak in cycle, says Euro study

By GEORGE SIVELL, ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

THE British and Irish economies have reached a peak in the business cycle, according to Eurochambers, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce.

Eurochambers also believes that British companies are showing the highest expectations for employment throughout the whole of Europe. The Brussels-based association surveyed more than 120,000 companies in 65 regions of 11 countries.

The East Midlands led the British optimism on jobs. Rival firms in West Germany are the most pessimistic, blaming collective wage agreements and continued worries over the benefits of extensive rationalisation there.

Eurochambers says that the reasons for the British lead are cyclical, as well as structural. It points out that "employment is a lagging indicator which is not likely to improve until the economy has been strong for some time and investments are used to expand capacity."

Eurochambers adds: "The European Commission rightly states that unemployment is the most immediate problem for Europe and efforts should be made to create a competitive workforce and to stimulate employment. It is unlikely, however, that the level of unemployment in Europe, currently at 10.7 per cent of the workforce, will decrease in the short term."

It also says: "The Community's role in creating jobs should be limited to providing a coherent and transparent framework, together with pro-

viding regional aid... within which enterprises can operate on a fair and competitive basis."

"Eurochambers agrees that the current economic situation requires important changes in wage and social policy to regain competitiveness. Local and sectoral differences have to be taken into account and flexibility and part-time work encouraged in order to recreate competitiveness and employment."

"Artificial job creation schemes or training programmes, which are not responsive to demand, have failed to deliver an expansion in employment opportunities."

Richard Brown, the deputy director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, said:

"Artificial job creation schemes and training programmes, which have been launched in several member states have failed to deliver an expansion in employment opportunities. It is not the task of government, national or European, to provide individuals with a 'Union-wide job guarantee'. This can only be provided by businesses themselves."

"Government policies should aim at price stability and a reduction of public deficits, paving the way to non-inflationary growth. The biggest single factor contributing to net employment growth is an increase in economic activity. The survey shows there is such an increase across Europe. It can only be a matter of time before employment prospects follow."



Jeff Caplan, left, security cameras director, with Richard Clemons, Bob Underhill, finance director, and Harvey Sampson

Pledge to investors on Crest

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ANTHONY NELSON, the Treasury Minister, has moved to reassure private investors worried about the impact of the Crest, the paperless share settlement system to be introduced in the City next year.

He said that investors would be able to retain their share certificates and carry on trading at reasonable cost and with reasonable security.

Mr Nelson was launching the Treasury's public consultation exercise on the new electronic system being devel-

oped by the Bank of England which is due to begin operations in the second half of next year.

He added that investors would be able to keep their vital relationships with companies, either through retention of certificates, or through the Crest sponsored membership option.

Mr Nelson said: "Electronic settlement is needed to maintain and enhance London's standing as a world centre for securities trading." The Treas-

ury's consultation paper states that when it issued a Crest legal issues paper in April last year, concern was expressed about whether investors would be able to continue to hold certificates. It confirmed that that option would remain and might be the best one for many less active investors.

The Treasury is seeking comments on its draft regulations by March 31. Copies of the document are available from the Treasury.

Gardiner sees outcome slip

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GARDINER GROUP, the distributor of security equipment, is raising the total dividend to 0.8p, from 0.73p, in spite of a decline in pre-tax profits to £3.5 million, from £4 million, in the year to October 31. A final dividend of 0.55p (0.5p) is due on April 13. The shares gained 2p, to 17p.

The company, whose chairman is Richard Clemons and whose chief executive is Harvey Sampson, saw turnover rise to £80.5 million, from £78.6 million, but pressure on margins trimmed operating profits to £4.1 million (£4.8 million).

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Eastman Kodak dips as job cuts start

EASTMAN KODAK, struggling with a massive restructuring to focus on its core imaging business, announced a sharp drop in its fourth-quarter earnings as it detailed plans to cut 4,000 jobs. Net earnings fell to \$18 million, or 5 cents per share, for the fourth quarter from \$201 million or 61 cents per share a year ago. Latest results include a \$254 million after-tax restructuring charge. For the full year, Kodak's profits rebounded to \$557 million, or \$1.66 per share. In 1993, when it took a \$2.17 billion charge for accounting changes.

The company said that apart from units that have already been notified, its US employees will be largely unaffected by any more layoffs. Kodak's results also include a \$33 million charge to pay down a huge chunk of its debt and a \$350 million gain from the sale of its non-imaging health businesses. "Looking at the fundamentals earnings from continuing operations without all of the unusual charges — we have strengthened our financial position and established a solid foundation for growth," said George Fisher, Kodak's chairman, president and chief executive.

Law league challenge

REGIONAL law firms are challenging big City practices for private corporate advisory work, according to *Acquisitions Monthly's* league table of the top 20 advisers on UK private takeovers in 1994. Hammond Suddards, of Leeds, came from nowhere to tenth with 80 deals worth a combined £832 million. Everheds, a national practice with roots in Birmingham, was 13th with 78 deals worth £693 million. Two other Birmingham firms, Pinsent & Co and Edge & Ellison, made their debut. Slaughter and May remained top with 57 deals worth £5.4 billion and Freshfields was second.

Clark to shut factory

C&J CLARK INTERNATIONAL, the shoemaker, is shutting a factory in Radstock, Avon, with the loss of about 600 jobs. The first wave of cuts were announced in November, when 240 jobs were axed at the factory, which primarily makes children's shoes. Efforts to find an alternative use for the plant failed, and the factory will close before the end of the year with the loss of a further 360 jobs. The company said that it would do its best to provide alternative job opportunities. Overall sales of children's shoes in the UK have fallen by more than 20 per cent in the past five years.

Warburg director goes

SG WARBURG, the City investment bank, has lost another director. Peter Bass, former joint head of the bank's loss-making, fixed-interest and Treasury division and a board director, has resigned. His decision last year to return to America prompted a review of the leadership of the division. After that review, Warburg last month pulled out of Eurobonds, a business created 30 years ago. Mr Bass intends to return to active involvement in the fixed-interest and Treasury business. It is understood that he is about to join a smaller firm.

James Finlay profits hit

JAMES FINLAY, the confectionery and plantations group, has warned shareholders that several factors had hit profits since the half-year results last September. These included bad weather in Kenya and Bangladesh, bad debts in the UK after large sales to Eastern Europe, much worse tea trading results in Mombasa, and considerable redundancy payments after major rationalisation in the George Payne business and Finlay's merchant banking arm. It is expected that the dividend will be maintained when final results for 1994 are published in May. The shares fell 12½p to 62½p.

AromaScan in red

AROMASCAN, which makes "electronic noses" for detecting odours, has commissioned research and development projects at a total cost of £790,000 since the company's flotation last August. Harold Morley, chairman, said the company was now well placed to exploit commercial applications for its technology. Losses of £819,000 for the half year to October 31 reflect costs incurred during the period in establishing an operational base. The loss per share was 4.04p. Offered at 100p each in August, the shares rose 1p to 88p yesterday.

Ulster estates for sale

TWENTY-EIGHT fully developed industrial estates totalling 1,100 acres and five stand-alone factories are to be sold by the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board at an auction in Belfast on March 23. The board has already sold the big Hydebank industrial estate on the edge of Belfast. In 1986 it owned more than 800 properties throughout the Province; after next month's sale it will have only about 50. Frank McCann, the board's deputy chief executive, said that the IDB would continue to provide land and factories for companies qualifying for its support.

Australian insurer sold

AUSTRALIA'S second-largest insurer passed into foreign control after 125 years when Axa, of France, bought 51 per cent of National Mutual Life Association of Australasia for A\$1.1 billion (£524 million) yesterday. National Mutual, an unlisted organisation owned by its policyholders, also announced that it would demutualise to become a company and list its shares on the Australian Stock Exchange within two years. Axa is one of the world's largest financial services groups, managing A\$330 billion of funds, against National Mutual's A\$36.2 billion. Axa operates in 15 countries.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver

Administrative Receiver Limited

Trading name(s)

Name of business

Date of appointment

Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s)

Name of administrative receiver(s)

Office (holder No(s))

Address

Administrative Receiver Limited

Trading name(s)

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Newsprint price warning

By ERIC REGULY

RUPERT MURDOCH, the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, said yesterday that higher newsprint costs may force up cover prices.

Speaking at the Davos World Economic Forum in Switzerland, Mr Murdoch said the "economics of newspapers" had changed because newsprint prices had climbed by as much as 40 per cent in recent months.

"I believed that papers were too expensive in London, so I reduced the price," he said. "With the cost of paper going up now, and so on, that will probably have to be corrected to some extent."

However, no decisions had been made on price changes at News Corp, he said. Newspaper shares were marked up. The Telegraph group closed at 359p, up 3p; United Newspapers gained 4p to 476p and Mirror Group rose 2½p to 124½p.

Separately, Mr Murdoch said that Europe's telephone monopolies should be dismantled to lower the cost of broadcasting transmission.

Nationwide defers life company

By ROBERT MILLER

NATIONWIDE Building Society has delayed the launch of a life and unit trust company for at least six months.

Britain's second-largest building society had hoped that the new life company would be ready for business this summer. The Nationwide's larger rival, the Halifax, launched its own life operation earlier this month. The Woolwich, the UK's third-largest society, launched a life company in 1990 and a unit trust subsidiary in 1991.

But Peter Richardson, divisional director of mortgages and insurance at the Nationwide, said: "The financial services marketplace has been changing quite dramatically over the past few months and, in planning the best way forward for Nationwide Life we have decided to opt for a conservative launch date of January 1, 1996." Until then Nationwide will continue to be linked to Guardian, formerly Guardian Royal Exchange.

Schroders will be the external fund managers for the new company's unitised life, pension, unit trust and personal equity plan business.

Former Leeds chief condemns merger

By ROBERT MILLER

A FORMER chief executive and past president of the Leeds Permanent Building Society has condemned the proposed £9 billion merger with the Halifax and urged members of both societies to vote against it.

Leonard Hyde, who was chief executive of the Leeds Permanent until 1978 and remained as a main board director until 1990, said yesterday: "I have written to a

number of MPs asking them to raise questions in Parliament about how it was that Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, nodded through the merger without referring it to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission when he did not even know the bonuses which members would be entitled to."

As a result of Mr Hyde's letter, Alistair Mahon, Labour MP for Calderdale, has written to Mr Heseltine asking him to explain the circumstances which led him to approve the Halifax-Leeds deal.

Mr Hyde added: "If the current board of Leeds Permanent no longer feel capable and able to run the society as an independent and vibrant organisation they should have said so, and not have so vehemently opposed the election of three people who sought to do so."

"If the Leeds Permanent and the Halifax have so much money to give away they should do so now by way of a bonus to investors and long-suffering borrowers and not indulge in a most expensive exercise which will ultimately destroy two very fine institutions."

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□ Lloyds Bank would do well to buy in life minority □ Longhurst's charm offensive □ Oil keeps riding to the rescue

Whispers in the Abbey

ANOTHER day, another bank takeover tale. If half the stories that have rippled around the market in the past three weeks had been true, SG Warburg would have been taken over twice and sold its controlling stake in Mercury Asset Management. Kleinwort Benson would have been carved up by any number of continental banks (choose a name and tell a friend, but don't be short of the stock), and the TSB would have been likewise snaffled up by a rapacious French lender. All this tit-for-tat has come to nothing, but someone has made a lot of money from such stories.

Yesterday it was Lloyds' turn to be put on the rumour rack. This time, the source of the story was a well-argued research note from Michael Lever, the star banking analyst from Nomura, which reckoned that Lloyds was on the point of buying in the minority stake in Lloyds Abbey Life, its 67 per cent-owned life assurance and estate agency subsidiary, and funding it with a rights issue.

This did wonders for Lloyds Abbey's share price but created all sorts of ulcers on Lombard Street. If the chips at Lloyds were about to pay 44p a share for Lloyds Abbey, it was news to them. Lloyds has the small matter of a £1.8 billion bid for the Cheltenham & Gloucester to

complete. Sir Brian Pitman, Lloyds' chief executive, has guru status in the banking industry, but two simultaneous billion pound takeovers may be a bit much even for him. Besides, he has an pathological hatred of rights issues and he would contradict hundreds of homilies on shareholder value if he passed the hat round shareholders now.

So any shareholders in Lloyds Abbey who expect an offer document to drop through their letter box tomorrow may be disappointed. But this does not make the deal a bad idea. Other banks, like the TSB, are busy combining their banking and life assurance sales forces since the two business are really only alternatives for the willing saver. But Lloyds is prevented from this because of Lloyds Abbey's separate identity. In addition, Lloyds is subsidising its part-owned offshoot by charging a fraction of the standard commission rate on sales made through its branches.

In the past, Lloyds has been prevented from considering such a mop-up move because the minority was simply too expensive. But the disregard the life

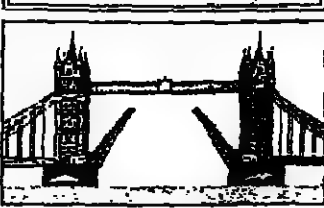
industry has fallen into, combined with Lloyds Abbey's profit warning earlier this month, has reduced the share price to its lowest point relative to the market since its merger with Lloyds in 1989. A £1.1 billion offer is not beyond Lloyds' reach, particularly if it is allowed to rebuild its capital for a time following the C&G acquisition.

While the Lloyds Abbey bid is the latest in an entertaining series of takeover tales from the Square Mile, it should not be dismissed out of hand. It may not happen tomorrow, but it is certainly on Sir Brian's 'things to do' list.

Cheltenham spars with borrowers

TAKEOVER talk aside, Lloyds' real target is tying itself in knots to be nice to its customers. Until April last year, when the Cheltenham & Gloucester surprised everyone by announcing its proposed marriage with Lloyds, it was generally regarded as a pace-setter in the building society movement.

PENNINGTON



It freed itself from the endowment mortgage straitjacket. It abandoned valuation and mortgage application fees. It was a trailblazer for postal savings accounts. And it was one of the first to introduce cashback deals for mortgage borrowers. Its expense ratio was the envy of its peers. Andrew Longhurst, C&G's chief executive, was regarded as the very model of a modern major general.

Now in an attempt to pacify hundreds of thousands of very unhappy borrowers, none of whom will benefit from the bonus payout from Lloyds Bank, but whose votes are crucial if the wedding is to go ahead, Mr Longhurst is setting out on a charm offensive. And it will need

all of its undoubted smoothness if he is to climb back into his customers' good books.

Yesterday's mortgage price promise contained all the hallmarks of Mr Longhurst's undoubted marketing ability. But the C&G has always been a price leader in the highly cut-throat mortgage market. So the promise is an old product in new packaging. It may attract new customers but it will do little to mollify existing borrowers who would prefer a share of Lloyds' £1.8 billion largesse.

Undoubtedly, C&G has been let down by the advice of its well-paid legal battalion, who believed the takeover in its original and more generous form could be rammed through the courts at high speed. But its own arrogance has earned it the deep hostility of once loyal customers. This is not the happy ship Lloyds thought it was buying.

Promising to keep its mortgage rate at 0.25 per cent below that of its major rivals for the rest of the year, just long enough to tie the knot with Lloyds, is an inadequate gesture in the face of such antipathy. It does nothing

to address the real grievances of existing borrowers and few new borrowers pay the prevailing standard mortgage rate.

Oiling the economy's wheels

OIL is always coming to the rescue of Britain but, like the US cavalry in the final reel, it tends to be late and always costs too much. The North Sea oil industry never ceases to push back forecasts of its decline and last year oil production reached record levels thanks to the co-incidence of Nelson and East Brae reaching peak levels while ten new fields came on stream.

Unfortunately, frantic activity on the UK continental shelf did not coincide with peaking oil prices. In contrary fashion, the price slumped to less than \$13 at the beginning of 1994 and only managed an average of less than \$16 throughout the year.

But the industry plays a useful role in avoiding embarrassing deficits in the current account and contributed 0.6 per cent to last year's 4 per cent rise in GDP.

So useful are the oil revenues that the Government is desperate to push back the North Sea horizon as far as possible. That poses a potential problem as new fields, like West of Shetlands, are technically difficult and low oil prices are squeezing margins. Recently, the oil industry's cavalry has been clever: it has found out how to bring oil ashore at less cost, helping to keep a steady income stream for the exchequer.

Elsewhere, governments are even more desperate for cash and leaner oil companies are being enticed into the Gulf with the prospect of cheaper production in new areas of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. World oil supply is rising and prices are on a downward trend, all of which will make the economies of the wider UK oil provinces more risky.

Under-exposed

A STUDY by Professor Len Skerratt of Manchester University, published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, finds that a third of FT-SE 100 companies do not reveal their foreign currency exposure. Less than half show the size and currency of debt, and 7 per cent do not value their properties. Professor Skerratt finds it all "very odd indeed", as should any inquisitive investor.

GM cruises to record results as sales soar

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

GENERAL MOTORS made \$17 million every day between October and December, which drove the world's biggest car maker to a better-than-expected fourth quarter and record annual results.

The company reported earnings of \$1.6 billion for the three-month period to the end of 1994, compared with \$1.2 billion in the 1993 quarter, and full-year profits of \$4.9 billion against \$2.5 billion in 1993.

GM said that its key North American car and truck operations were back in profit for the first time since 1989, and promised to send employees profit-sharing cheques for the first time in four years.

The company plans to buy back up to 15 million shares of its common stock to resell to employees through their stock benefit plans. For the October to December quarter, the company's income rose to \$1.74 per share, from \$1.28 per share in 1993. For the year, earnings per share came to \$5.15, up from \$2.13.

GM said its earnings would have totalled \$5.7 billion if there had not been a \$758 million charge for an accounting change.

"These record results reflect strong performance by all of the GM business sectors," said John Smith, the firm's president and chief executive.

"It is particularly significant to note that GM's North American Operations reported a calendar-year profit for the first time in five years."

The division posted a profit of \$690 million in 1994 in contrast to a 1993 loss of \$872 million. North American Operations accounts for about 60 per cent of GM's revenues; the division ran up losses of almost \$15 billion between 1991 and 1993.

Profits from GM's international operations were \$1.6 billion, up from \$1.1 billion a year ago, after strong performances in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region and Latin America. Mr Smith said. The company's finance, computer services and defence-electronics subsidiaries combined for profits of about \$2.7 billion, he added.

GM's revenue totalled \$155 billion in 1994, an increase of 12 per cent on 1993's total of \$138 billion. Fourth-quarter revenue reached \$42.5 billion, compared with \$37.2 billion in the 1993 period.

All of the so-called Big Three US carmakers have seen a sharp increase in domestic demand as consumer confidence returns. Two weeks ago, Chrysler reported its most profitable year ever, and analysts expect strong results from Ford today.



John von Spreckelsen, chief executive, said the Penny Market stores had been hit by fierce price competition

Budgens takes axe to discount chain

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

INTENSE competition in the discount sector has forced Budgens, the supermarket group, to axe its chain of discount stores after less than two years of trading.

John von Spreckelsen, chief executive, said that the Penny Market stores had been hit by fierce price competition and significantly increased costs of acquiring sites. As a result, the chain incurred heavy operating losses.

Mr von Spreckelsen said price competition in the sector had intensified, with the cheapest 100 discount products now selling at 10 per cent below last year's price. He said: "It cost us 13p to buy a can of baked beans, and we were selling them for 7p. Others were selling them for 4p. It was a recipe for disaster."

Five of the 12 Penny Market stores are to be sold for £2.5

million in cash to Lidl, the German discount retailer that recently entered the British market. The remainder will be converted to the Budgens format. The group has set aside £1 million to cover the costs of restructuring the chain. It comes on top of £4 million of operating losses and conversion costs accumulated over the past two years.

The development raises doubts on the future relationship between the company and the Rewe Group, the German discount operator that is Budgens' biggest shareholder and has long been tipped as a possible buyer of the group.

The Penny Market debacle depressed interim pre-tax profits, which fell to £881,000 from £3.05 million in the 28 weeks to November 13. The interim dividend is held at 0.3p and will be paid on April 13.

Trafalgar House extends offer date

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TRAFALGAR HOUSE, the engineering to shipping conglomerate, has extended its £1.2 billion offer for Northern Electric until February 13, having gained acceptance from 4.85 per cent of shareholders by the first closing date.

Trafalgar's advisers hailed the total as a record for the first closing date of a hostile bid, while Northern described it as "a very low level of acceptance".

Within the 4.85 per cent is 0.1 per cent held by parties

deemed to be acting in concert with Trafalgar, thought to be Robert Fleming, advisers to Hongkong Land, a substantial shareholder. The bid is currently under consideration by the Office of Fair Trading for a possible reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Under the code governing City takeover bids, if there is no decision from the OFT by February 17, the 39th day of the bid, the offer can be put on hold until an announcement is made.

Free calls at Mercury boost sales but not market share

BY ERIC REGULY

MERCURY One-2-One, the mobile phone network owned by Mercury Communications and US West, yesterday said that its Christmas free-call campaign boosted sales but fell short of expanding its market share.

The company also hinted that it may change its prices this year, including its policy of offering free local calls after hours and at weekends. "I would certainly anticipate some changes in our service in 1995," said Alan Harper, director of business strategy.

One-2-One may curtail the number of hours eligible for free calls, or change the balance between call charges and standing charges. However, should a price war break out

among the four mobile phone networks, "there would be more incentive to keep free calls," said Mr Harper.

One-2-One finished the year with 205,000 subscribers, up 46 per cent from the 140,000 it had at the end of September. The figure gives One-2-One 6 per cent of the whole market and 17 per cent of the market in London and the West Midlands, the regions it covers.

One-2-One launched its free call promotion on November 8. Anyone who bought a One-2-One phone between then and December 24 was eligible to make an unlimited number of domestic and international calls on Christmas Day.

The promotion was a public relations fiasco because over-

loaded circuits prevented many calls from getting through.

Of the 60,000 customers who were eligible for the Christmas free-call promotion, 3,000, or 5 per cent, complained. They have received compensation payments ranging from £15 to £30. In some cases, One-2-One bought back the phones, which sell for about £200. The total compensation costs were less than £100,000.

Veolia, the diversified German energy group that last week unveiled a strategic telecommunications alliance with Cable & Wireless, Mercury's parent company, enjoyed a 66 per cent surge in pre-tax profit last year to DM2.5 billion.

Kuwait bank to securitise £100m loans

UNITED BANK of Kuwait is to securitise £100 million of property loans to provide further funds for expanding its UK real estate lending business (Carl Morfished writes).

The issue, planned for mid-February, is being packaged by Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank that launched the first commercial mortgage securitisation in the London market, last December, issuing £150 million of notes for Bristol & West Building Society.

UBK expects to raise £100 million from a package of loans made by the bank and secured on 38 properties. The aim of such transactions is to secure triple-A credit ratings for the main tranche of notes, thereby enabling the bank to refinance the loans cheaply.

Sumray family sells entire stake in FII

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARES in FII Group jumped 38p to 523p after Monty Sumray, chairman and managing director, sold his entire family interest in the shoe manufacturer that supplies Marks & Spencer to an investor group led by Charles Ryder. The 11.7 per cent holding was sold at 315p a share.

Mr Ryder, 41, will become FII's new chief executive. The former merchant banker was previously chief executive of Magellan Industries, a leading designer and manufacturer of clothing for Marks

& Spencer. He led a management buy-in to Magellan, then known as Cestion Industries, in October 1988, and became chief executive. He focused the business on lingerie and swimwear for Marks & Spencer and the company was acquired by Claremont Garments last April. He became joint managing director of Claremont and will stay on as a non-executive director.

Mr Sumray, who has spent 30 years with FII, will remain as chairman on a part-time basis, but retires at the end of May. His family stake being sold is worth £5.54 million. Two other long-

serving directors will also be leaving the company and two non-executive directors will join. The changes accompany a rise in pre-tax profits to £1 million in the six months to November 30 (£551,000). Turnover fell to £38.8 million (£42.2 million), mainly reflecting a near £3 million increase in stocks of finished goods held against customers' firm orders but awaiting delivery instructions.

Cash balances stood at £9.1 million. Earnings rose to 4.4p (2.2p) a share. The interim dividend is held at 6p, with payment due on May 5.

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COMPANY chairmen, grab your annual report and either go back to the drawing board, or take a bow. According to "The Company Report Report 1994-95", a survey of 100 of Europe's top companies, the British produced the best and the worst annual reports in Europe. The Report, edited by Peter Clifton of Peter Prowse Associates, puts Vodafone at the top with a score of 793 out of 1,000 and Great Universal Stores at a mere 71 points. By country, the Swiss lead the pack and the Italians come in last. Keeping company with GUS in "feeble attempts to set out the corporate story" were Italian insurer Generali Assicurazioni (75 points) and British Airways (73). UBS's Nikolaus Senn gave the strongest chairman's statement — "few are as forward looking as this", the Report notes. Sir Colin Marshall's statement to BA shareholders is described as "ineffectual". Marks & Spencer, Hanson, GUS, GEC and BA, among others, made no use of charts, and ABN Amro needs to get out its camera — it made no use of photography at all.

No porkies

QUOTED group Crampton, which makes pig feed, rears pigs and supplies supermarkets with pig products, has had a cracking start to the Chinese New Year. Chairman Jim Bloom sold 10 tons of Chinese-style spare ribs ahead of the celebration of the Year of the Pig — and that is no porky pig.

JAMES FINLAY TEAS



"I see a downturn in profits..."

Cheap rule

IF YOU have ever wanted to tell the Government how to save money, and can't afford to wait for the next General Election, here's your chance. The third Adam Smith Institute's "Economy in Government" competition, sponsored by Ernst & Young, kicks off on February 14. Last year, more than 400 entries were submitted, and various suggestions down the years have, I'm told, been taken on board by Whitehall, including one idea that saved the DTI £300 million. But there has been no take-up of the following: banknotes should carry advertising; put power-generating windmills on top of government buildings; a curfew on teenagers to reduce crime and vandalism.

Chosen few

JUST as the election of a Pope is only for Cardinals, so tomorrow's City seminar on the Alternative Investment Market is only for the chosen few. Embarrassed hosts of the talk-in about AIM have told the media that their invitations are withdrawn and they may not now put their backsides on seminar seats — at the insistence of the Stock Exchange. "It is either them [the Press] or us," the exchange has said... and so five high-back whicker chairs have been summarily removed from the conference hall.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Sun rises over Britain's growing exports to Japan

Joanna Pitman

says sales of UK cars and goods are being boosted by weak sterling

When Commodore Perry's Black Ships steamed into Japanese waters 140 years ago, their initial purpose was to obtain port facilities for American whalers in the Pacific. The second and more important purpose, pursued with furious intensity by the European powers that arrived soon afterwards, was to demand trading rights.

According to contemporary thought, a country that had cut itself off from the rest of the world (as Japan had for 250 years) was acting immorally, since it was reducing the world's wealth-creating potential.

The Japanese took the point and soon trade was flourishing. Today, foreigners have developed a new set of demands: save less, invest less, stop working so hard, eat foreign rice and oranges, stop chasing whales, increase military spending, be more like us, stand up to baddies like Saddam Hussein... but most important of all, do cut down those exports.

If there is one topic that springs to mind on the rare occasions the average Westerner thinks about Japan, it is probably trade friction — the seemingly interminable disputes that have led to unwelcome political cussedness from Japan and fury from everyone else. Japanese relations have been soured with Europe and America for at least 20 years over all manner of trade flows, from silk and Burberry broccades to machine tools, peanuts and satellites.

A special vocabulary has been created to keep up with the levels of acrimony: NTB (non-tariff barriers), targeting, SII (Strategic Impediments Initiative), level playing fields. Politicians have fumed, lobbyists have haggled, journalists have drawn comparisons with Pearl Harbor. Meanwhile, consumers have kept on buying Japanese goods.

America, whose trade deficit with Japan grew 15 per cent to \$26.2 billion in the first half of last year, has been thumping the table louder than most. So far, at least, the response has been less than overwhelming. In the latest round of bilateral trade negotiations earlier this month, one of the main arguments put forward by the Americans was that internationally competitive US companies would have greater success in Japan if its markets were truly open.

They cite sectors in which American companies have demonstrated success in other world markets but have failed to make significant inroads in Japan. Telecommunications equipment is one in which US manufacturers claim to be among the most competitive in the world and yet they find that in the Japanese market, particularly in the area of government procurement, they have been largely excluded along with other foreign makers.

The same goes for the medical equipment market. US manufacturers account for 40 per cent of the public



Michael Heseltine with Ryutaro Hashimoto, his Japanese counterpart, for discussions in Tokyo yesterday

and private market in the European Union, but less than half that in the Japanese market. Cars are another US gripe, not only because two thirds of the near-\$60 billion annual US trade deficit with Japan stems from vehicles and vehicle parts.

While the "results oriented" approach adopted by the Clinton Administration has failed to make any significant dent in America's spiralling bilateral trade imbalance, Britain's figures have recently turned comparatively rosy. And Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, and a team of British business sharpshooters are in Tokyo this week charged with the fiendish task of exploiting the advantage and extracting new concessions, including an agreement to reduce tariffs on spirits.

Britain chalked up a \$310 million current account surplus in the first half of 1994 compared with a \$2.4 billion deficit at the same time in the previous year, according to the official monthly figures issued in Tokyo in December. Modest, but nevertheless respectable, considering Japan's reputation as a fortress closed to all but essential foreign imports.

Burberry raincoats, Earl Grey tea packaged by Fortnum & Mason and Wedgwood china — all considered essentials in Japanese households as status-imparting foreign gifts — have continued to flow east in large quantities. But the real boost has come from rather more substantial exports, including power generation equipment, automated components, medical and pharmaceutical products and cars.

The Rover group reports that 1994 was its best year for vehicle exports to

Japan, an increase of 35 per cent over 1993, bringing sales of 18,983 vehicles. More Minis are sold in Japan than in any other market, including Britain, but the greatest increase has been in the four-wheel drive category. Rover Japan has invested in expanding its dealer network in the past year, but the increased sales should in large part be attributed to exchange-rate fluctuations and a new "fair play" pricing policy that has allowed customers to receive the benefits of the strength of the yen against the pound.

The exchange rate is a more likely explanation for Britain's trade balance improvement than the recent phenomenon of Japanese reverse exports (of products made in UK subsidiary plants of Japanese companies). Nissan factories in Sunderland have recently begun exporting the five-door Nissan Primera to Japan, decorated with a Union Jack to appeal to Japan's Anglophiles, but sales have been tiny and would have had little impact on last year's UK-Japan trade figures.

British cars have benefited along with those from the rest of Europe, from a fashion current in Japan, "said a senior official in the international trade bureau of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). "The perception among Japanese consumers is that European cars are good performers. They are also compact, good looking and appeal to a taste for European exclusivity. But prices have fallen since the yen strengthened and this must have made a huge difference."

According to the MITI official respon-

sible for UK-Japan trade relations, British exports have increased across the board, indicating a distortion due to the exchange rate. "Britain's departure from the EMS may have particularly affected British figures because the pound has been weakened against the yen more than other currencies still in the EMS," he said.

According to figures compiled by the Japan External Trade Organisation, a semi-governmental body, British car exports to Japan have increased from a value of £65.2 million in 1988 to £190.7 million in 1993. Equally significant for Britain's tiny new surplus has been the growth in exports of medical and pharmaceutical products. In 1988, Britain exported £94.7 million worth of goods in this sector; by 1993 this had grown to £241.1 million.

However, the Japanese market is far from conquered. While the view from Congress and the European Parliament is that there is something uniquely underhand and unfair about Japanese business practices, the exact problem is seldom spelt out.

The inference is of subsidies, dumping and trade barriers, although in strictly legal terms Japan's tariff rates and import restrictions are not as evil as perceived. For a number of reasons, including language and fierce domestic competition leading consumers to expect the highest standards of design, reliability and service, the Japanese market remains infernally difficult to crack.

While the pot and kettle slanging match can be expected to go on with America, Japan's trade relations with Britain will continue to be relatively sunny in the short term — at least as long as the yen remains strong.

Toymakers sitting on death row

Inventors struggle in a market dominated by the big boys, says Victoria McKee

Think global or think small and focused is the message of this year's British International Toy and Hobby Fair.

In an increasingly global market, medium-sized independent manufacturers and retailers are being squeezed out by multinational groups, usually American or Japanese-based, such as Hasbro, Mattel, Bandai and Tomy, and — on the retail side — by names such as Woolworths and Toys 'R' Us.

Of the 101 new exhibitors at Olympia, London, this year, most know that their only hope of survival is to have their game or product bought out quickly by one of the big boys with marketing teams all over the world. Few will survive until their second Toy Fair. It is estimated to cost a minimum of £100,000 to get a game even to prototype stage.

Upstarts, producer of The Really Nasty Horse Racing Game and, new this year, Ad Mad, a game about the TV advertising industry, is on its seventh fair. The Upstarts partners, Tom White and

want it easy, and it's not easy for the mavericks like us.

"The easy route is to take your 5 per cent from Hasbro and walk away, but I don't want to sell my baby and I want to keep it British."

Board games seem to promise the easiest chance of entrance to the toy industry for newcomers, which is why there are so many new ones this year, often from redundant executives who have ploughed their remuneration into developing their dreams.

However, with even major businesses in the games market, such as Waddington, MB, Parker and Spears, having sold out (to Hasbro and Mattel), how can the new entrepreneurs hope to assure retailers of the multi-million pound television campaigns on which success apparently depends?

As Denis Horton, group managing director of Mattel, says, "There's a saying in the toy industry: How do you make a million? Spend three million!"

Silvian British survivors

The easy route is to take your 5 per cent and walk away

John Mariani, say of exhibiting: "They call it Death Row, those little three-metre wide stands where most new companies began, because so few will be around next year. But if you've got a really good product and handle it right you can survive."

John Mott, too, is trying to hold out against the big boys — but it isn't easy. Mr Mott, an inventor based in Farnham, Surrey, and responsible for, among other things, the LA Gear trainers with flashing lights and carbon tennis racquets, has produced a new construction toy, Motik, to rival Lego. The problem is that the giant Hasbro corporation — which exhibits at its own separate show — is behind K'Nex, another new construction system fighting for the same market.

Mr Mott, despite having his product sold by Harrods, had to have an administration order on his company because of financial problems. "It cost £15,000 to get Motik to prototype stage, and £250,000 to create the set of tools to produce it," he explains. "And then all the big retailers say 'What is your TV spend?' They all

market niche and appealing to parents and the adult nostalgia market. Some success has been enjoyed also by emerging British companies, which scour the world for innovative ideas to bring to Britain on licence — such as the wildly successful Biker Mice.

Mr Horton, of Mattel, whose packaging now bears instructions in seven languages, says: "In some ways, the toy industry is like the car industry — a lot of products require a lot of tooling investment and a lot of risk, and that's where the global aspect is coming from. On the other hand, it's like the advertising industry, where there is a need for the small creative shops with the wacky ideas — and to produce toys featuring local characters like Thomas the Tank Engine and Postman Pat that the multinationals really aren't interested in."

"Global characters today really need to be TV or film-related. It isn't enough to have come from literature, except via Disney."

BUSINESS LETTERS

Greed of fat cats the reason for 'cost rationalisation'

From Mr Eric H. Chadwick Sir, How on earth can Graham Searjeant attempt to explain away massive pay rises to executives in privatised industries by saying it is the going rate for the job ("Nice work if you can get it", January 17)?

To say that the workrate and the resulting responsibility has increased justifies such amounts is to ignore the fact that many people at the bottom of the ladder, as Mr Searjeant puts it, have had their workload increased by a substantive amount without having their pay increased by even the smallest amount.

Others have had their jobs taken from them for no other reason than "cost rationalisation", the work they used to do thrust upon their harassed ex-colleagues and the wages they used to depend on to feed their families given to the top executives as a reward for sacking them.

When, as a teenaged apprentice working in a furniture factory, I asked the foreman for any favours, he would tell me that there were over a million unemployed who would take my job if I were not satisfied with my lot.

I would reply, quite truthfully, that he could only employ one of them at any one time.

This is still true today, and to state that giving the same employee a huge increase in pay attracts able executives is best described by a good old-fashioned working-class expletive.

Only when the position is vacant would a pay increase attract someone to fill it as only one man can possibly be employed in a position at any one time.

So plainly, Mr Searjeant, it

is the greed of the fat cats at the top awarding themselves and their executive colleagues the money that is saved by halving the workforce, making the other half work twice as hard, and keeping the rest for themselves.

This, incidentally, is a formula that has been employed all over the country since May, 1979.

Yours faithfully, ERIC H. CHADWICK, 16 Maryfield Green, Crossgates, Leeds.

Ofwat's ruling on South West Water

From the Director-General, Ofwat Sir, Pennington (January 17) asserts that South West Water can point to industry efficiency tests that show it was hard done by, by Ofwat's rulings at the review of water prices.

The MMC will doubtless look at this. I contend that the methodology on efficiency was applied fairly and consistently to all companies.

Our decisions on efficiency savings, quite rightly, took into account information going beyond the scope of the

published econometric studies and reflected evidence on company performance since 1989.

Yours faithfully, IAN BYATT, Director-General, Office of Water Services (Ofwat), Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

More bad sums

From The Rev. S.H. Mayor Sir, Mr Michael White (Letters, January 14) is not the only person to find that British Gas has difficulty with its sums.

Some 11 weeks ago, I received a final notice on removal and refund of the balance of a payment made in advance. I replied immediately that I had not removed and had no intention of doing so, and returned the cheque.

The response was a further copy of the notice and another, much smaller, refund. I repeated my reply, again returning the cheque. There followed an estimated meter reading and a credit balance statement differing from both the previous ones.

British Gas's next approach was a demand that I should pay the balance outstanding, now converted from a credit to a debit balance. I replied in what I hope were clear and emphatic terms on December 7. My reply was acknowledged: that is all so far.

Should we raise a fund to buy British Gas a new abacus? Yours faithfully, S.H. MAYOR, 10 Sherlock Road, Cambridge.

ue in any form for the future. We will, however, continue to progress our writ in the absence of any meaningful dialogue with the present management of Lloyd's of London.

Yours faithfully, DAVID GREEN, Chairman, Litigation Subcommittee, Lloyd's Action Group For Restitution and Deposit Defence, PO Box 19, Pottersbury, Twickenham, Northamptonshire.

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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share	4.77	- 2	5.2	7.0

1. Ex. comp.
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Law Report February 1, 1995 Chancery Division

No public interest immunity for confidential bank reports

Kaufmann and Others v Credit Lyonnais Bank

Before Mrs Justice Arden
(Judgment December 20)

Confidential reports disclosed voluntarily by a banking institution to the regulatory body of which it was a member, providing full and frank accounts of the operation and management of its private client banking department, would not be entitled to public interest immunity, as a class, in respect of a claim for production of those reports by investment clients of the bank, unless it could be clearly demonstrated that there was a need to withhold such information from investors.

Mrs Justice Arden so held in the Chancery Division, in a reserved judgment, when granting an application by the first, second and third plaintiffs, respectively, Julio Kaufmann, Kety Kaufmann and Signature Enterprises Ltd, for the production of certain documents by the defendant, Credit Lyonnais Bank, under Order 24, rule 1(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, which had already been disclosed by the defendant to the Security and Futures Authority (SFA) and to the Bank of England. The hearing and the judgment were in chambers but judgment was released in open court on January 27.

Mr John Powell, QC and Mr Thomas Lowe for the plaintiffs; Mr Ian Milligan, QC and Mr Duncan Matthews for the defendant.

MRS JUSTICE ARDEN said that the defendant resisted the application on the ground, principally, of public interest immunity.

The allegations in the action arose out of the conduct of the defendant's discretionary manager of the plaintiffs' investments. The defendant was authorised to conduct investment business by the Securities Association (ISA).

The plaintiffs alleged, inter alia, that in 1990 and 1991 the defendant acted in breach of the rules of the ISA and/or negligently and/or in breach of fiduciary duty owed to the plaintiffs and the liable in damages to the plaintiffs under

section 52 of the Financial Services Act 1986. The defendant denied liability.

The documents disclosed in the list served by the defendant on discovery but production of which was resisted were: 1 A report dated July 31, 1992 and a supplemental report undated, in each case prepared by Linklaters & Paines, the defendant's solicitors, and addressed to the SFA.

2 A report by Ernst & Young, the defendant's auditors, to the SFA.

3 Correspondence between the defendant and the SFA and between Ernst & Young and the defendant at or subsequent to those reports.

Later evidence filed on the application showed that the report also contained various proposals for change within the defendant.

Category 3 above included a letter from Ernst & Young to the defendant which was said to be immune from production because it related to one of the reports made by the defendant to the SFA. Reference was made to *Alfred Crompton Amusement Machines Ltd v Customs and Excise Commissioners* (No 2) [1974] AC 405, 433F.

Copies of the report were sent to the Bank of England as the then supervisor of the defendant as a banking institution.

In all cases the reports were sent in confidence.

Her Ladyship envisaged that what the plaintiffs would hope to find in such documents were:

1 Admissions as to breaches of SFA rules with respect to the defendant's private client department.

2 An explanation of the weaknesses of that department.

3 The version of the events concerning the discretionary manager of the plaintiffs' investments, which, after investigation, the defendant put forward to the SFA in 1992.

4 An indication of what possible witnesses of fact told the defendant in 1992.

Class of documents for which public interest immunity was claimed.

Mr Milligan submitted that the disputed documents formed part of a

class of documents to which public interest immunity attached as a class.

The class was defined as documents containing "information which was (i) disclosed to a regulator voluntarily and in confidence (ii) other than as a matter of routine (iii) brought into being for the purpose of enabling the regulator more effectively to discharge its functions or duties (iv) save where the disclosure of that information by the regulator was necessary for the proper performance of its functions and duties."

By (iv) her Ladyship understood Mr Milligan to mean that the SFA could, notwithstanding public interest immunity, properly disclose information for the purposes mentioned.

While the submission referred to a regulator her Ladyship was concerned only with information disclosed to the SFA and the Bank of England and the instant judgment was principally concerned with the position of the SFA. Likewise, the reports in question were submitted by a member firm of the SFA and related to its own conduct.

The submission quoted above and the evidence filed on behalf of the defendant also dealt with sources other than a member firm and with information which even though provided by a member firm related to the affairs of some other member firm.

In *MGN Pensions Trustees v Invesco Asset Management Ltd* (unreported, October 14, 1993) a claim was made for public interest immunity for, inter alia, correspondence between another self-regulatory organisation for the purposes of the Financial Services Act 1986, namely the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO). Counsel had not referred to any other case in which the question whether such documents carried public interest immunity had been considered.

Public interest immunity might be claimed either on the basis that the documents formed part of a class which ought to be immune, or, alternatively, on the basis that the documents in question ought by virtue of their contents to be treated as immune.

It was added that if the disputed documents did not attract public interest immunity "firms such as Linklaters may then have a claim to be able to withhold information from regulators because communications and reports to

regulators will be discoverable. It is almost certain that such advice will be followed."

The disclosure obligation of member firms was contained in the SFA rules in the circumstances described by rule 2.46: "A firm must inform the SFA immediately of any transactions or events which are likely to involve (a) a significant contravention by the firm of the rules of the SFA or (b) any other matter which would be material to the requirements of the firm or its registered person to remain fit and proper."

Her Ladyship said that she was not asked to assume that member firms would not comply with their disclosure obligations which included the obligation to make disclosure immediately. Accordingly, what was at risk was not compliance with rule 2.46 but the disclosure of information which went beyond that obligation.

B The Bank of England
The Bank of England asserted on its own behalf public interest immunity in respect of the reports sent to the SFA and copied to it. It also supported the SFA's claim to public interest immunity with respect to communications between regulators and institutions.

However, the role of the Bank of England in the instant situation was not to act as a regulator but as a secondary one. Therefore the decision in the instant case was confined to information in documents produced to the Bank of England in like circumstances and did not cover information provided to it as a primary regulator.

On the evidence regarding the SFA, the salient points were:

1 That without confidentiality, member firms of the SFA might be less forthcoming to the SFA with regard to disclosures not falling within rule 2.46;

2 That the information thus volunteered to the SFA was an important part of information which enabled the SFA to discharge its function mentioned above, and

3 That without that information performance by the SFA of its functions would be impaired.

The public interest, therefore, which the evidence supported was the encouragement of disclosures which went beyond rule 2.46, for example disclo-

sure which covered matters not covered by rule 2.46 or which contained further matters such as proposals for material changes not required by rule 2.46.

Her Ladyship having dealt in detail with a number of questions raised by the application, including a large number of authorities, turned to *R v Chief Constable of the West Midlands, Ex parte Wiley* (The Times July 15, 1994) [1994] 3 WLR 433 a decision which she considered of great importance.

That case vigorously reiterated (at pp446A-B) that a heavy onus lay on a person who sought to establish a new class claim to public interest immunity which is what the defendant appeared to seek to do in the instant case. It drew together authorities which vividly illustrated the dangers of a class claim: see also *Neilson v Laugharne* [1981] QB 736 and *Ex parte Coventry Newspapers Ltd* [1993] QB 278.

In *Ex parte Wiley*, Lord Woolf, with whom the remainder of the House agreed, concluded that the decision in public interest immunity to take a "wrong turn" (p443B) and that "no sufficient case [had] ever been made out to justify the class of public interest immunity recognised in *Neilson* (pp449E and 447E-448A). A similar situation applied in the instant case.

The only basis on which a class-based public interest immunity could be justified here was that it was "necessary to withhold the whole class" for the proper functioning of the public interest, per Viscount Simon, Lord Chancellor in the *Duncan* case (at p12).

The principal reason given was that member firms would otherwise be deterred from making prompt and full disclosure to the SFA. That was the sort of matter which the court was entitled to assess, per Lord Reid in *Conway v Rimmer* [1968] AC 910, 952B-C.

Where a serious breach had occurred the member firm would know that in due course its activities were likely to become public knowledge and in that event it was going to be difficult to see that it was immunity which was going to have effect on its conduct.

However, the class as formulated was

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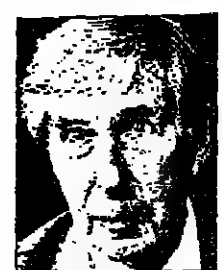
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VISUAL ART page 36
Were the British any
good at Impressionism?
A new show throws light
on a misty subject

ARTS

OPERA page 37
What Tippett gained and
lost when he fashioned
his own libretto from
the Iliad for King Priam



The ultimate time-and-motion study

Why are 45 toy cars
careering around
the Queen's House
in Greenwich?
Nigel Hawkes,
science editor, has
some of the answers

Tatsuo Miyajima is an artist obsessed with time. In a darkened space he measures out the passing seconds with bright red light-emitting diodes, blindly counting like so many digital clocks.

At the Queen's House in Greenwich, where Miyajima's latest installation can be seen from today, until March 5, the artist and the gallery are united in a strange symbiosis. For Greenwich is where East meets West at the meridian line, and where the first accurate measurements of time were made.

The canvas for *Running Time* is the marble floor of the Great Hall at the Queen's House, designed by Inigo Jones in the early 17th century. A perfect 40-foot cube, the room has been blacked out for the duration and the work is observed from a gallery running around the hall about two-thirds the height of the ceiling.

On the floor, constrained within a shallow wooden threshold, Miyajima has placed 45 small electric cars, each about nine inches by six and with a red counter on its roof. As the visitor looks down, the cars crawl slowly and silently across the floor, counting out the digits from 1 to 9 as they go.

They do not collide, or crash into the walls, because they are fitted with sensors which detect the approach of an obstacle and put the motors into reverse. Mostly they run in perfectly straight lines, but immediately after reversing, they seem to curve gently before setting off on a new path.

The effect, in a room blacked out by thick curtains, is curiously mesmerising. Sometimes the cars stop altogether, apparently drawing breath. Sometimes several form a small and brilliant constellation in one corner of the room, then part again and resume their endless wanderings. Only a gentle electric hum attends their passage, because the wheels are shod with rubber and the cars run silently.

Here, if you like, is an image of the cosmos, or of the particles in an atom, forming and reforming in an endless and never-repeated cycle, or even of human lives, each singular yet linked to those of others. Or, if you prefer, here is a wonderfully-realised electronic toy which conceals its nature in the dark, and weaves hypnotic spells. The show is open for up to three



Tatsuo Miyajima caught in the midst of *Running Time*, which he terms "movement within movement". This new work is now on show in the darkened atmosphere of the Queen's House, Greenwich

hours every day (4.30pm to 7pm Tuesday to Thursday, and 3pm to 6pm Friday to Sunday), after which the little cars have to be plugged into the mains to recharge their batteries.

Miyajima has been creating works like these, based on electronic counters, for the past five years. Born in Tokyo in 1957, he studied at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music and made his first foray into performance art by shouting out aloud in the midst of a crowd on a Tokyo street.

Asked by James Lingwood of Artangel, the cultural entrepreneur responsible for bringing Miyajima to Greenwich, whether this act might not be seen as expressing

pessimism or alienation, the artist gave an enigmatic reply. "Art is nature," he asserted, adding that human beings create in order to act naturally. He had sought through performance art to affect people emotionally, but finding the effect ephemeral, had moved towards a more enduring experience.

This began at the Venice Biennale in 1988, with *Sea of Time*, a series of digital diodes scattered around the floor enumerating endlessly, and was followed by number-counters arranged in rings, in straight lines, and in lattices. Now Miyajima has added movement, choreographing his clocks in space as well as time.

"One reason I was attracted by his work" says James Lingwood. "was that it gave me a sublime feeling of terror or awe, such as one might have felt in front of a landscape painting of the early 19th century." For me, I must confess, the feeling was more one of curiosity about how Miyajima had managed to manipulate his little cars so invisibly. But a work of art isn't supposed to strike every observer in an identical fashion.

Artangel are specialists at controversy, being the people who last year brought us Rachel Whiteread's *House*. This concrete casting made of a terraced house in Bow raised temperatures all round before it was finally bulldozed. Many tried to save it; but probably just as

many were delighted to see it go.

For Artangel the commission was a triumph, though Lingwood says that the organisation does not seek to shock — that would be mere agitprop. Its purpose, he says, is to commission one-off projects in places where the artist would not otherwise work. "They range from poetic to prosaic and urban to rural," he says. "We don't seek to forge a consensus, but to generate discussion. If people find the work neutral or anodyne, we would be disappointed."

Nobody visiting the Queen's House is likely to reach for these adjectives. But what, they may ask themselves, is it all about? Miyajima has said that *Running Time* is

an attempt to express the nature of time on the basis of Einstein's theory of relativity and Heisenberg's uncertainty principle.

Einstein, of course, integrated space and time into a single entity, space-time, and showed that the rate at which time passed changed with the velocity of motion, though you need a particle accelerator and not an electric car to demonstrate this. Heisenberg delighted the philosophically inclined by stating in 1927 that it is impossible to make an exact and simultaneous measurement of both the position and the velocity of any body.

"To do so, I use 'time gadgets', all ticking with a different rhythm," Miyajima says. "The gadgets move

around the space at random. Previously my gadgets were 'movement within stasis'. This time I am working with 'movement within movement'."

This strikes me as arm-waving rather than argument. There is nothing in the work that casts any illumination on either Einstein or Heisenberg, at least to this observer. But the visitor cannot fail to be charmed by the patterns Miyajima has woven. They didn't strike me as sublime, but I did find them clever and entertaining, and to ask for more would be greedy.

● *Running Time* is at the Queen's House, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE18 6PY until March 5.

JAZZ: An uneasy alliance between an Argentinian and the London Philharmonic; startling originality from one of today's most idiosyncratic ensembles

Tentatively crossing over

Ever since Paul Whiteman asked George Gershwin to come up with a jazz concerto and was duly rewarded with *Rhapsody in Blue*, jazz composers have been searching for common ground with the classics. The Argentine pianist Lalo Schifrin has spent a good part of his career pursuing this particular holy grail. While studying under Messiaen in Paris he regularly disappeared to take part in jam sessions in the clubs, and by his early thirties he had joined Dizzy Gillespie's group.

Now he is best known for his film scores: Clint Eastwood blew away villains in *Dirty Harry* with his music in the background. The movie connection perhaps explains why much of his collaboration

**Jazz Meets The
Symphony
Festival Hall**

with the London Philharmonic had a tentative and unresolved air about it, as if the notes were sketches for some larger enterprise. Schifrin's lugubrious presentation and his unswinging block chords failed to inject life into the tributes to Miles Davis and Louis Armstrong or the collage of themes by Duke Ellington.

Thank goodness that James Morrison was on hand to invoke the free spirit of jazz. For some reason this superb multi-instrumentalist has not yet made much of an impression in this country. Perhaps

we only have room for one paunchy, balding Australian. What is clear is that he plays standards, from both the swing and bebop eras, with as much flair as any of the more fashionable American names.

Some of Schifrin's arrangements did not call for much beyond high-note fireworks. But Morrison still showed dazzling control in the uppermost register, and exceptional stamina as he switched from trumpet to trombone, flugelhorn to piccolo trumpet.

Morrison's bravura performance seemed to prod the orchestra into playing with a tad more abandon. Schifrin's most elegant and economical writing was reserved for "Back to the Blues".

CLIVE DAVIS



Schifrin: lugubrious presentation and lack of swing

Poetry from a master

The two words most frequently encountered in any discussion of Paul Motian's drumming style have always been taste and control. Indeed, the pianist Bill Evans, with whose trio Motian first became widely celebrated for his subtle musicality, considered the drummer's contribution to his music so valuable that when Motian quit to follow his growing interest in free jazz, Evans reportedly refused to speak to him for 15 years.

During this silence, Motian honed his already considerable jazz sensibilities, both in free music and by contributing his unique sound to the American quartet of Keith Jarrett. His most frequent collaborators throughout this band-leading career have been the

**Paul Motian Trio
Jazz Café**

saxophonist Joe Lovano and the guitarist Bill Frisell. This exhilarating Jazz Café concert demonstrated just why they find Motian's music so compelling: not only does it provide them with the perfect platform for their solo skills, but it also enables them to contribute towards one of the most original group sounds in contemporary jazz.

Typically — and this Camden gig was no exception — the trio concentrates mostly on Motian tunes, notable both for their startlingly original melodies and their strongly percussive core, but it also explores the music of other jazz mas-

ters, from Monk to Mingus. The latter's passionate but slow-burning ballad, "Duke Ellington's Sound of Love" elicited an extraordinary display of squeezed hiccups from the trio. Frisell's unique guitar sound and Lovano's coloured, urgent tenor combining with Motian's gossamer-light brushwork to produce a performance of breathtaking delicacy.

Motian's experience in free music and in the bands of Evans and Jarrett has made him adept at hinting at a tune's underlying pulse and simultaneously following every subtlety of his soloists' improvisations. As drummer-leader, Motian is simply in a class of his own.

CHRIS PARKER

Dresden remembered

A BRITISH orchestra is going to Dresden to help to mark the 50th anniversary of the Allied bombing of the city. At the invitation of the German Government, the English Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Yehudi Menuhin, will perform Mozart's Requiem in two memorial concerts (Feb 12-13). But before they leave, the ESO will present the Requiem in Coventry, a city devastated by German bombers in April 1941. More than 1,300 people are expected to fill Coventry Cathedral on Sunday for the concert, which is being presented free to the citizens of Coventry.

ARTS BRIEFING

● DEBORAH PAIGE, formerly of the Salisbury Playhouse, is taking over as artistic director of Sheffield Theatres, responsible for the Crucible and the Lyceum. Paige, who assumes her new post on May 1, has new experience at the ICA and Hampstead Theatre in London, Bristol Old Vic, the British Council and the New Shakespeare Company.

FOLK: Celtic sounds, bluegrass and country meet in the music of a Nova Scotia family

British folk music fans may be a comparatively invisible audience, but given the opportunity, they are hardly inaudible. Crowding into a theatre that was taking a night's break from *Grease* — *The Musical*, a few thousand woolly-jumped people snacked on ice cream and wolf-whistled. It was hardly rock 'n' roll, but then neither are Nova Scotia's Rankin Family.

Led by songwriter and guitarist Jimmy, the five-strong family occupy a relatively unique position in Canadian music. Of Scottish ancestry, the Rankins use traditional Celtic sounds as the basis of their own music, itself untinged with bluegrass and

Canada's reel thing

**Rankin Family
Dominion, WI**

country. It has proved a winning combination. Their 1993 album, *North Country*, swept up a variety of awards, and brought to a wider attention the pure voices of sisters Heather, Raylene and Cookie. Although the family's acoustic sound has been augmented on this short British tour with four extra musicians playing guitars, fiddle and drums, their music requires less formal surroundings. The reels

— played with great aplomb by fiddlers John Morris Rankin and Howie MacDonald — were infectious, vivacious pieces, but most of the crowd were too timid for aiskedancing. One couple did perform a five by the gent's, but they were in the minority.

The pace was suitably varied for a two-hour set, covering material from the family's three albums. Quick-rhythmed songs like "As I Roved" and "Forty Days" gave way to some tingly Gaelic-tongued numbers, which illuminated the strengths of the sisters' voices. Raylene stood

out, showing — on "Rise Again" — an unerring aim for the high notes.

For the greater part, the Rankins have wedded old and new influences well. Floating synth lines provided songs about unrequited love with an additional source of melancholia. But this fine balance was disturbed with some obtrusively funky bass lines on the new single, "Grey Dusk of Eve". Good humour and the traditional tunes won out. A fiercely competitive fiddle duet proved a fiery encounter and a closing version of "Mairi's Wedding" sent the crowd skipping homeward through the London rain.

LOUISE GRAY

UNTIL 4 MARCH
"the best ticket in town"
Strindberg's
"curiously comic"

The Dance of Death

John Neville
"touches greatness"
Gemma Jones
"one of the best performances
you will see this year."
Anthony O'Donoghue
"excellent"

"unmissable"

0171 359 4404

OPERA: Looking forward to ENO's revival of Tippett's Trojan drama... and back on Musgrave's latest premiere

Off to war in words and music

As the epic *King Priam* returns to London, Philip Howard asks if Tippett was wise to construct his own libretto from the *Iliad*

In opera, great music — such as Verdi composed for *Il trovatore* — can triumph over a terrible libretto. Operagoers of Europe may have known Metastasio's "little books" by heart in the 18th century, as they sang along with the arias. But today's operagoers find the words more romantic in a second language. "Morgenlich leuchend im rosigen" sounds better than "Shining resplendent in dawn's rosy light" or any other translation.

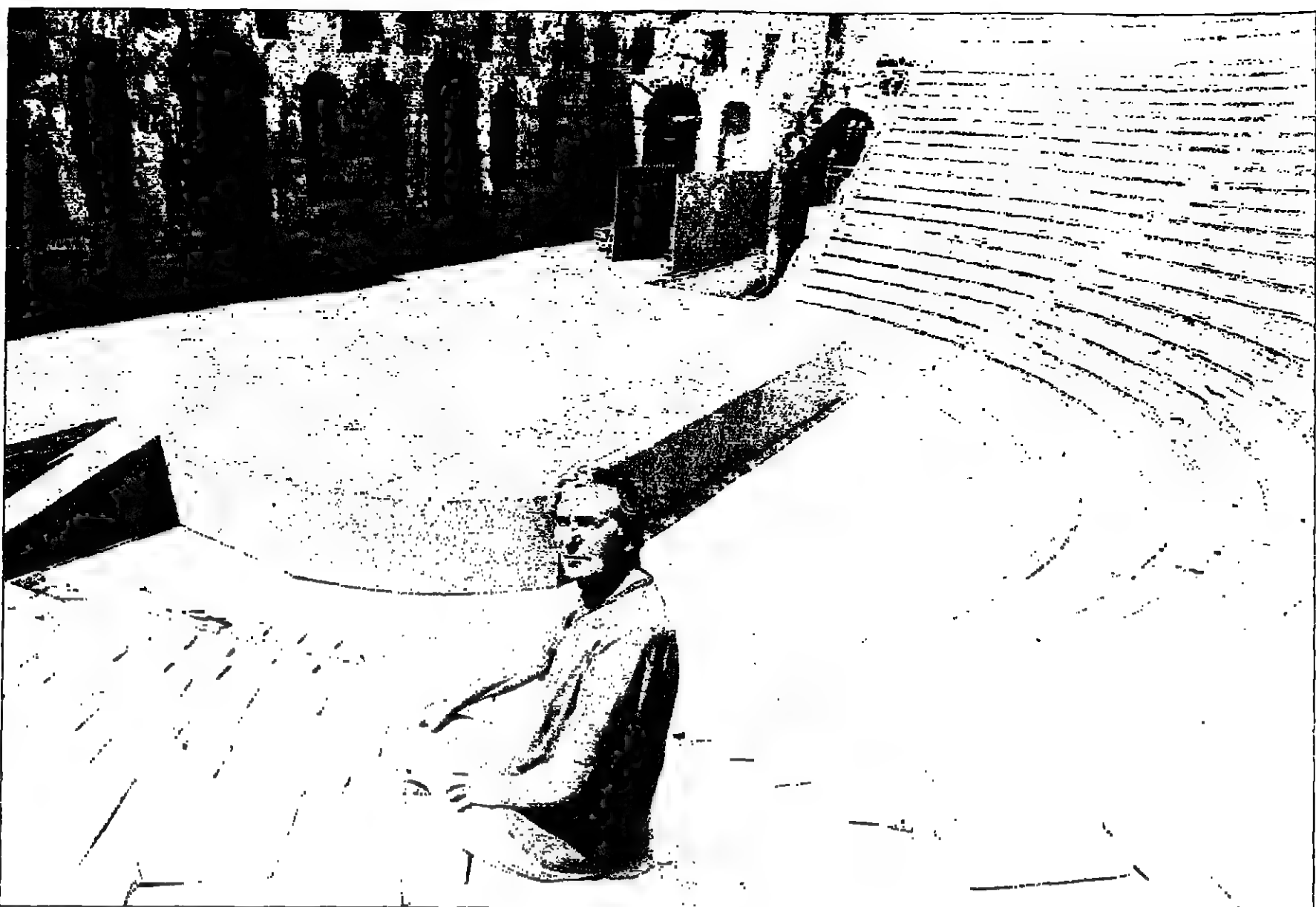
The decent obscurity of a foreign language does not distract from the music. Only rarely have the words pulled equal weight with their music. Perhaps they did so in ancient tragedy, which opera was invented to imitate. But we know so little about ancient music. Aeschylus was a high poetic librettist, but I shudder at having to construe his choruses unseen through distracting plinks and tootles and twangs. Oratorios and Requiem set to music distinguished libretti from books that are the familiar foundations of their literature. And sometimes librettist and composer — for example, Hofmannsthal and Strauss — collaborate to make an opera greater than the sum of its parts.

Sometimes, however, composer and librettist are one and the same. Like Wagner or, in our own day, Michael Tippett. Being his own librettist enables Tippett to keep control of the complex creation and avoid clashes between wordsmith and music-maker. For *King Priam*, his epic opera about "the mysterious nature of human choice", which is revived by English National Opera

on Friday, Tippett had two fine poets in the source literature that he might have used as librettists, Christopher Logue reads little Greek, but his versions of the *Iliad* are wildly dramatic and reflect the bright noonday sun of Homer in modern English. Tony Harrison, of *The Trackers of Oxyrhynchus*, *The Oresteia* and much other brilliant work based on the Classics, can also make ancient Greek breathe again in contemporary colloquial English and on the stage. Harrison or Logue, though, might have written libretti that distracted attention from the music.

So, as was his usual custom, Tippett wrote his own script, and as usual he was criticised for doing so, not just by the trade union of librettists. A widely-mutated opinion in the profession ran: let the composer stick to his score, and hire a professional to look after the libretto. After all, for *The Midsummer Marriage*, his modern-invented romantic comedy, Tippett's libretto had poetic intimations of modern pop that could have been sung by Abba: "It isn't love I want, but truth." "O magic staircase that I've always known in dreams."

For *King Priam*, Tippett uses a less popular heightened English, with echoes overt and covert of Dylan Thomas and Yeats. Sometimes, and out of context, the words can raise faintly the smile that Housman raised broadly with his parody of contemporary "poetic" translations of Greek tragedy: "O suitably attired in leather boots/Head of a traveller, wherefore seeking whom/Whence by what way, how purposed art



A modern reinterpretation of classical tragedy: Sir Michael Tippett, photographed in 1985 at the Herod Atticus Theatre in Athens, where *King Priam* was staged

thou come? To this well-nightingaled vicinity?"

When the Nurse, the Old Man and the Young Guard sing in chorus "Ah, but life is a bitter charade. We go from birth to death, but nothing is plain. Perhaps at the end a glimmering of sense a residue of meaning," there is a distant echo of the banality of "My object in enquiring is to know/But if you happen to be deaf and dumb/And do not understand a word I say/Nod with your hand to signify as much."

And when, at the climax, Priam visits Achilles in his tent to beg for the mutilated body of Hector, and says: "I clasp your knees, Achilles, and kiss your terrible, man-slaying hands," again he is singing translator's rather than poet's English. The repetitions of "Why, why, why, why," and "no, no no" are never at the level of Lear's

"Never". But that may be because they have not had four centuries to astonish us.

The libretto of *King Priam* is not poetry, but it is good, clear, unobtrusive poetic translation. It sticks close to the spirit and the meaning of the *Iliad*, even though we are separated by so great a gulf of time and culture from those archaic heroes and gods. Hector sings to Paris: "So you've given up fighting! I'm not surprised. You're mad about women, you pretty boy; and for myself I wish you'd never lived." This is the natural language of Leeds and London and Inverness, heightened for epic drama. Patroclus sings: "I am not you, Achilles, but disguise me in your shining armour, set me in your chariot with the immortal horses. I shall be you in all but body, and under your plume (though you stay

here) can drive back the Trojans across the plain."

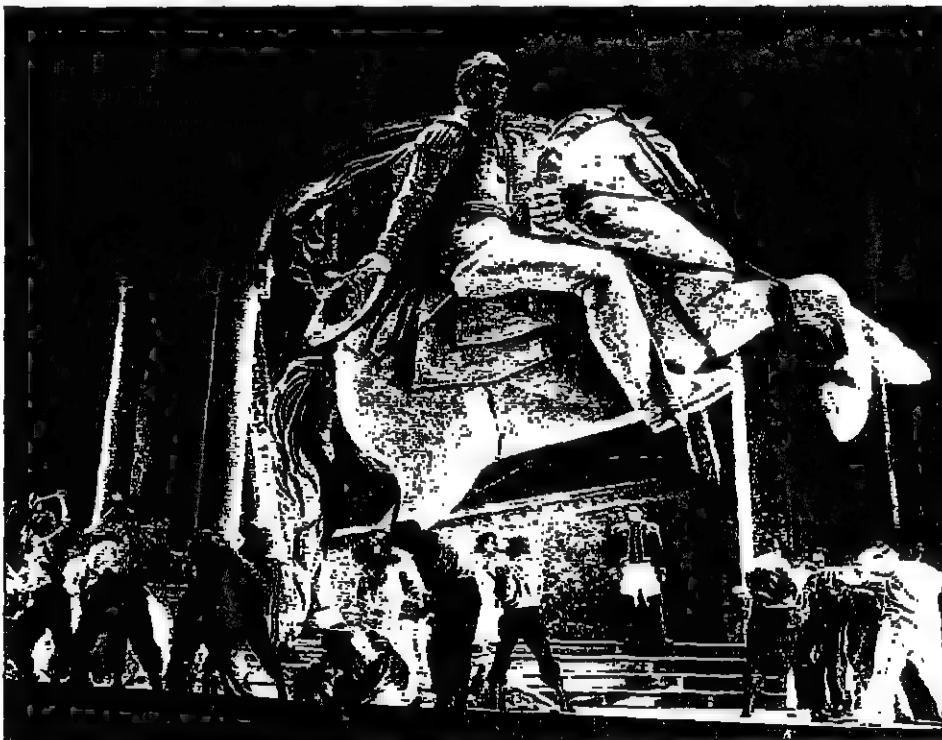
The story told in the *Iliad* occupies just a few weeks towards the end of the ten-year siege of Troy. The period of *King Priam* covers a generation, from the birth of Paris to the death of Priam, taking in the central plot of the *Iliad* and some of the preceding and subsequent legend. Tippett's DIY libretto is a masterly feat of compression, discretion and sensitivity. But as always with opera, the essence that brings the drama to life is the music, from the bloodcurdling melisma of Achilles's war cry to the haunting melancholy as Priam and Achilles drink to their deaths. The music makes any opera. But Tippett's words do the music justice.

● *King Priam* opens at the Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300) on Friday at 7.30pm

In harmony with history

Rodney Milnes

reports from Virginia on the world premiere of a thrilling new work by Thea Musgrave



Lillian Garrett-Groag's Virginia staging of *Simón Bolívar*, designed by John Conklin

merited feel of a "cottage industry". Musgrave is as naturally gifted a composer for the stage as anyone writing today, and she deserves a wider platform. A slap-up production of *Simón Bolívar* by Scottish Opera at some

future Edinburgh Festival would be a start.

It's a thrilling piece, conceived and executed on an epic scale. The first of the two acts, each running just over an hour, charts the triumphant campaigns of "El Libertador"

against Spanish colonial rule in the early 1800s with a panache and sweep worthy of Prokofiev's *War and Peace*; the second shows the collapse of high ideals into disillusion and treachery — the subject matter of David Blake's *Tous-*

saint frequently springs to mind. The opera ends with the real Bolívar's actual words inciting a present-day South American crowd to revolt against tyranny.

Supporting characters — all historical — are cunningly sketched in, political issues raised and swiftly dispatched. The whole is swept along by music of irresistible energy and dash, with gentler soliloquies and set-piece duets deftly slotted in. The unashamedly neo-romantic idiom, with good tunes and helpful recurring motives, engages the audience's attention throughout. Musgrave has an infallible sense of theatrical pace and effect. Her use of dance, after the manner of *Gloriana*, is especially effective.

There was one great mystery about the VOA perfor-

mance: it was sung in Spanish rather than translated back into Musgrave's English. This was all the odder given that the audience seemed entirely English-speaking, and frustrating in that Musgrave's skill ensured that, whatever was going on in the orchestra — this is an invigoratingly noisy opera, with big, bold vocal writing — every word came across clearly in the 1,500-seat Harrison Opera House. But perhaps the obscurity of a foreign language was a useful recurring exhortation to revolt would be music to the ears of few operatic audiences nowadays.

For the marvelously incisive playing of the orchestra under Mark and the energetic choral singing, nothing but praise. Garrett-Groag's production, in an elaborate permanent set by John Conklin, was on the busy side (much mugging, shoulder-clutching and mimed conversation for the chorus). I could imagine the work being twice as effective in a more spare staging. Stephen Guggenheim coped valiantly with a title role plainly written for a more robust tenor: Douglas Nagel glowered effectively as Santander, Bolívar's main antagonist. Amy Johnson cut a glamorous figure as his mistress.

Now it's Scottish Opera's turn: Musgrave is far too important a composer not to be honoured in her own country.

Old lessons set in stone

Peter Strafford on an exhibition which sheds new light on the building of an ancient monument

THERE are some humbling conclusions for the 20th century to be drawn from an exhibition in London on the building of the Parthenon in Athens. The Parthenon was built some 2,400 years ago, between 447BC and 438BC, and "From Pentelicon to the Parthenon" consists of drawings by Manolis Korres, the architect and engineer in charge of restoring it, of how he believes the marble was quarried, transported to the Acropolis, shaped and erected.

Quite apart from artistic considerations, Korres writes in the catalogue: "It is a simple matter to prove that it would be impossible today to complete construction in so perfect a manner in the astounding time of eight years." Builders today might have petrol-driven vehicles and electric cranes, but they would not have the ancient tools with their unique quality or the "incredible technical prowess" of the stonemasons of 5th-century Athens.

Just how big the task was is vividly depicted in

Korres's drawings. He shows the quarry-workers struggling with wedges, hammers and crowbars to dislodge the huge masses of marble in the quarries on the slopes of Mount Pentelicon, north-east of Athens; the initial shaping of a capital; the process of hauling it along a slipway; and the long, slow journey on a special cart pulled by mules, taking it across the plain and up through the streets of ancient Athens.

Finally there was the precise carving of every piece of marble on the building site, to ensure that it fitted exactly, and its erection by means of a system of pulleys and cranes.

Korres has inspected the ancient quarries and the patterns of the marble seams; identified the ancient tools; and examined the marble blocks on the Acropolis. He sheds new light on an extraordinary achievement.

● "From Pentelicon to the Parthenon" is at the Foundation for Hellenic Culture, 60 Brook St, London W1 (0171-499 9826), until February 27



Building the Parthenon, as imagined and drawn by Manolis Korres, the architect in charge of restoration

CONCERTS: A chamber recital to celebrate Tippett's ninetieth birthday; Purcell meets a favourite of Louis XIV

NO STRING quartet is closer to the music of Sir Michael Tippett than the Lindsay Quartet. Having brought his Fourth and Fifth Quartets into the world; they must know all there is to know about the interpretative priorities and the technical problems involved. So it was generous of them, in celebrating the composer's ninetieth birthday at Manchester University, to devote their concert to the first three in the series, all of which were written long before the Lindsay String Quartet was even thought of.

There was no lack of commitment in their approach to any of them but, to judge by the outstanding quality of its performance, No 3 is the one that impresses them most. Or perhaps, in its length and its complexity, it is the one that frightens them most. But certainly, the sustained concentration which informed every line of the counterpoint and which kept the textures uncommonly fresh and clear,

Trio for string quartet

Lindsay Quartet
Manchester University

held the ear in thrall throughout the five movements.

If the same ear was rather less tempted to get involved in the String Quartet No 1, it was not because of any significant failure in the Lindsay's playing. Though far from being Tippett's first effort in the medium, it is an unconvincing piece: the opening Allegro, though a later replacement for the first two movements of the original version, still sounds

like Tippett struggling to escape from Debussy.

In spite of a highly expressive Lento cantabile and a finale where the characteristic rhythmic personality springs into life, this is one of those works destined never to come right, whatever the revisions it goes through.

The Second Quartet, which is entirely consistent in style and, in its creative freshness and melodic abundance, the most appealing of the five, provoked a correspondingly idiomatic and clearly purposeful performance.

But it was in the Third, where Tippett so dangerously challenges both Beethoven and Bartók and so triumphantly transcends them, that the Lindsay Quartet found the quality of sound, the precision in colouring and sensitivity in balance, to match the emotional dedication which had been so movingly apparent throughout the concert.

GERALD LARNER

Talent no match for genius

Ex Cathedra
St John's,
Smith Square

AFTER just a month of celebration, there is almost too much Purcell and not enough of everything else. That seemed to be the premise of the Birmingham-based choir Ex Cathedra's programme for its excellent concert on Saturday. Why not try something different?

Well, for one thing it is quite impossible to have too much Purcell. And for another, the juxtaposition of Purcell's music with that of Michel-Richard de Lalande in the first half of this concert proved that de Lalande, the composer most favoured by Louis XIV in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, comes a rather distant second in any comparison.

That may have been the point that Jeffrey Skidmore, the choir's director, was intending to reinforce all along. The earlyish (1684) Te-

Deum heard here had its moments: some appealingly sinewy solos and ensembles were taken well by this excellent choir's best young members (watch out for a smooth-voiced tenor called Stephen Harrold). But its proportions were vast, its mien grandiose, its idiom very much in the ceremonial mould of the Versailles style cultivated by Lully.

For the human touch, one has to look elsewhere. The Italian Antonio Caldara, roughly contemporaneous, showed how to deal with the same text in his magnificent but admirably terse setting for two choirs and a colourful

band including trumpets, trombones and oboes. There is in this piece a sense of joyful flamboyance utterly appropriate to the words.

Yet even Caldara cannot match the sense of personality, the human warmth and dignity, of Purcell's famous English setting of these words.

In mourning, just as in celebration, Purcell's tone, the balance he achieved between formality and intimacy, was always right, as Ex Cathedra's ritualistic performance of the anthem "Thou knowest, Lord" and the March and Canzona from the Funeral Music for Queen Mary, proved here. And again those great penitential settings "Remember not, Lord" and, especially, "Hear My Prayer" turned a large audience into collective, meditative silence.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Brewed by Artangel
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From bank managers to movie stars, deaf people are taking up their rightful roles in the community, Rodney Hobson reports

Breaking down the sound barriers

Deaf people are claiming their place in the working world. Despite the prejudices of potential employers, deaf and partly deaf people are turning up in responsible jobs such as bank or shop management. They can operate cash checkouts by lip-reading or hold down clerical jobs by typing messages.

The main barrier is that neither the deaf nor those with unimpaired hearing are used to living alongside each other. Since 1981, any deaf child has been entitled to go through the mainstream education system with support rather than attend a special school for the deaf. But the deaf community is itself divided, with a number of organisations such as the British Deaf Association, the National Deaf Children's Society and the National Deaf-Blind League representing different needs. Views on education are equally varied.

There is, however, a growing belief that deaf children should be treated as normal wherever practicable, and that they should be seen as being deaf and not stupid. Eric McNeil of Breakthrough, a Birmingham-based organisation which works to integrate deaf people into the community, says: "Deaf people are just as intelligent as those who can hear, but they need more time and input. They need considerably longer to master the same skills as hearing people."

Mr McNeil is a great believer in early mixing. "The philosophy of integration starts at school," he says. "It breeds a familiarity between deaf and hearing children. The earlier that deafness is seen as an obstacle rather than a disability, the better." He argues that in special schools for the deaf, standards of attainment tend to be lowered. Less is expected of the deaf — so they achieve less.

Breakthrough provides training programmes to help the deaf to find their role in employment. Mr McNeil says: "Deaf people come to us with very low confidence and very low levels of literacy. Many cannot read. It is a legacy that



Roger Broad: a great believer in early mixing

is not going to help them in the workplace. Communication skills are very weak for deaf people."

As a communications group, BT decided to help and to encourage deaf people to succeed in work. For five of the past six years it has sponsored the BT Young Deaf Achievers awards, which are organised by Deaf Accord, a consortium of deaf consumer organisations — the British Deaf Association, the National Deaf Children's Society and SENSE, with the support of Hearing Concern and the National Deaf-Blind League.

BT backed the first two events, then stood down for a year. Roger Broad, BT's head of sponsorship and advertising, joined the company in the intervening year and he was keen to restore the relationship — but on a new basis.

"The first two years were seen as a charitable donation,

a straight payment to encourage good deeds and create goodwill. I felt there was much more potential," he says. "These awards fit in with our whole programme to put something back into the community."

BT aims to put 0.5 per cent of pre-tax profits into charitable and community work. That means that about £15 million a year is available, enough to support a range of projects in the arts and the community.

Six key areas are targeted for support: people with disabilities, people in need, economic regeneration, education, environment and the arts. The sponsorship of the Young Deaf Achievers awards falls into the category of people in need.

Mr Broad says: "The awards show to the world that

in many cases young deaf people can achieve as well as hearing people. Employers should treat them the same. We also think the awards reinforce young deaf people's confidence in themselves."

He adds that there is nothing incongruous in a communications group helping people whose powers of communication are limited. He points out that, as with hearing people, the phone is the only alternative to face-to-face contact in dealing with the outside world.

Through its action for disabled customers unit, BT provides a range of products and services for people with disabilities or special needs. The Claudius portable speech synthesizer, for example, was developed to give greater independence to people with speech difficulties.

Mr Broad says: "It is part of the role of any company to look at all its customers and not just to take the easy route."

BT's commitment to the deaf extends to funding training courses for interpreters, who are in desperately short supply. It also sponsors "signed" theatrical performances where an interpreter stands at the side of the stage and communicates the words to those for whom even the induction loop is inadequate.

Technology is providing increasing help for the deaf. Those with sufficient hearing to use a hearing aid can follow plays and films through the induction loop, which transmits directly into the hearing-aid box. Induction couplers can be added to telephone handsets.

Those without hearing can communicate over the phone with the aid of a minicom, a system of typing messages that can be seen at the other end of the line. BT funds the Typetalk service provided by the British Deaf Association. A caller speaks to the operator, who transmits the message via a minicom to the deaf person.

In the business world, the introduction of teleconferencing, where participants can see each other via satellite link, means lip-reading is possible.



Jeani Cunningham, the northeast finalist, won a long battle against meningitis to return to teaching special-needs children

Several actors are following in the footsteps of Eric Sykes, the comedian who carved out a television career despite being unable to hear his cues. Mike Newall, the director of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, after some thought agreed to offer the part of Hugh Grant's deaf brother to a deaf actor.

He chose 25-year-old David Bower and was not disappointed. Mr Bower's appearance has made him Britain's best-known deaf actor and helped him to win a nomination for the BT Young Deaf Achievers 1994 awards as the winner from Wales, one of ten BT regions in the UK to provide a finalist.

Mr Newall said after the audition: "He is a fine actor and has a sense of mystery about him. There is a lot beneath the surface, which is probably to do with the battles he has had to fight."

Mr Bower began his career by working with youth theatres and small theatre companies. His breakthrough came last year when he was chosen to play alongside other deaf actors and actresses in *Titus Andronicus* at the Octagon Theatre in Bolton, Manchester.

London has at least one professional actress — Charlotte Moulton-Thomas. Aged 28, she counts *Casualty* among her TV appearances, and on stage she has played in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Murder in the Cathedral*. Miss Moulton-Thomas has overcome her handicap with enthusiasm and energy. She went to art college and has completed a course at the London School of Puppetry, as well as an arts management course at Birkbeck College.

Alexandra Phillips, the 16-year-old finalist from the southern Home Counties, is training to be a ballet dancer. Despite having only 25 per cent hearing in each ear, she has gained admittance to a



David Bower: a role in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*

three-year course to study professional dancing, gaining one of only 30 places in competition with hundreds of applicants. As part of the National Youth Ballet, she has performed solo at Sadler's Wells and the Royal Festival Hall in London.

Jenni Cunningham, the northeast finalist, 25, won her long battle against the meningitis that left her profoundly deaf to return to working in an inner-city school. With the help of lip reading and a cochlear implant, she is teaching children with special needs at Bankside Primary School at Harehills in Leeds.

The Northern Ireland finalist is 17-year-old Catherine Cassidy, who finds time to coach youngsters in the Irish game of Camogie while studying for her A-level GCSEs.

Lee Taylor, the 20-year-old Midlands finalist, was deaf and blind for the first year of his life. Though numerous operations gave him some sight, he has never acquired the ability to speak intelligibly, and he remains profoundly deaf. Through sheer perseverance, he learnt to swim and ride a bicycle and finally left home to go to college. He works at Foster's, a clothes store in Tamworth, Stafford-

shire. He secured the job by impressing his boss on a work-placement scheme.

A rare form of tuberculosis left the southwest finalist, Darren Stevens, 18, deaf in one ear and 90 per cent deaf in the other, and suffering from tinnitus. He has written poetry and a one-act play which won a regional competition and was performed at Bath Theatre Royal.

Profound deafness has not prevented Robert Pattison from touring Europe with his brother, who is also deaf. Aged 19, and the northwest finalist, he is studying at Sheffield University and hopes to become an architect.

Gary Mackay, the Scottish finalist, is a glass blower with Calhoun Glass, makers of decorative glassware. His employers say that he never needs to be told anything twice. The quality and quantity of his output is so high that he has been put in charge of ten glassblowers.

The northern Home Counties finalist, 20-year-old Ace Cobley, has been involved in the Friends of Young Deaf People (FYD) training programme and is working to become an ambassador, a volunteer qualified to represent FYD in the community. She coaches rugby to young deaf people and, after taking a management course at an adventure school in Cornwall, returned to qualify as an outdoor activity instructor. She is keen on sailing and hopes to become a qualified skipper. Meanwhile, she has begun a degree course in environmental sciences at Colchester University.

A special BT award goes to Rita Mistry, 24. Ms Mistry works in the accounts department of Coventry City Council, and uses a minicom, a telephone that enables deaf people to type their messages, which then appear on a screen at the other end of the line.

RODNEY HOBSON

Congratulations

Communication is BT's business. Helping people with communication difficulties, of whatever kind, is a fundamental part of that business.

That is why we are proud to sponsor the BT Young Deaf Achievers 1994 Awards.

Our congratulations and best wishes for the future to this year's winners and to all the nominees.

Recognising and rewarding personal achievement is at the heart of our business.

BT
In the community



Can public attitudes be changed? Leaders in their field give some advice

How to be a roaring success

Don't treat deaf people as if they are dumb, says Evelyn Glennie, the world's leading solo percussionist.

Ms Glennie wants to be known for her music, not her deafness. But her outstanding musical talent is coupled with a determination to achieve in a field where the ignorant would assume that hearing is essential. At the Royal Academy of Music, her tutors were concerned about her hopes of becoming a solo percussionist "because there had never been a deaf one before. But they learnt that once I decide on something I just go for it".

The public have plenty of misconceptions about deaf people, Ms Glennie says, and patience and understanding are needed on both sides.

Rebecca Macree, ranked twelfth in the world in women's squash, can lip-read extremely well, but frequently has to insist that people talk to her rather than write their message or simply ignore her. Ms Macree, who has been profoundly deaf since birth, came into squash only nine years ago, at the age of 14. She encountered animosity from officials and other players who did not believe that she could play without hearing the ball or the score. But now she is well-known, she finds that officials are sympathetic.

The perception of "deaf and dumb" was brought home to Kerena Marchant when she left university. She had planned a career in law until she discovered that deaf people were not permitted to become barristers. Her jobcentre offered her a job in a chicken factory.

Ms Marchant is now a series producer on schools broadcasting at the BBC. She admits that her career progress has been slower than that of hearing colleagues. The BBC has a strong equal opportunities policy "but you cannot change people's attitudes overnight".

Penny Broomfield has also had problems in getting promotion at management level. Employers are often stuck on the "what if she can't?" mental ruminations, says Ms Broomfield, who is now a partner in the consultancy Acorn Business Solutions.

"I found heavy emphasis was put on the need to use a phone rather than focusing on



Evelyn Glennie: outstanding talent

what I could do. I suspect that employers were more concerned about the impressions I would create with their customers."

Common failings among the hearing public, according to Ms Broomfield, include "simplifying the subject as if I had an IQ of ten and talking like a goldfish, which makes it more difficult to lip-read."

She finds that foreigners, however, are sympathetic to the problems of deaf people, probably because they have to listen hard to understand what is being said.

Deaf people should help themselves to achieve their potential by taking advantage of all the aids on offer, Ms Marchant says. The Department of Employment's Access to Work scheme funds her minicom and an assistant to interpret for her meetings when she is directing a programme. Ms Marchant also has Skipper, a "hearing dog for the deaf", which alerts her to phone calls

and fire alarms. During a recent visit she and Skipper made to Northern Ireland, the dog alerted her to a bomb scare.

How can public attitudes to deafness be changed? Ms Marchant believes that legislation is the only way to ensure that deaf people will have equal opportunities in the hearing world, although the Disability Bill, now going through Parliament, leaves much to be desired, she says.

Ms Macree believes that experiencing a problem brings understanding. She suggests that children could be "deaf for a day", and that sign-language should be part of the school curriculum. Ms Macree would like to see an annual National Deaf Awareness event, including all television programmes soundless but subtitled and dealing with deaf issues.

Deaf people who have succeeded in the hearing worlds of music, sport, business and the media give confidence to others in the deaf community and help to change attitudes to deafness in society. Ms Glennie's encouragement to other deaf people is unequivocal: "My music," she says, "says everything."

WIDGET FINN

150 150 150

Martin gets reprieve after video review

By RUSSELL KEMPSON AND PETER BALL

REFEREES are human after all. Paul Danson yesterday reduced the sending off of Alvin Martin, the West Ham United defender, to a booking after reconsidering his controversial decision in the FA Cup quarter-final match against Sheffield Wednesday at Upton Park nine days ago.

Martin, 36, is in his nineteenth season with the east London club and, over the years, has deservedly earned a reputation of rarely resorting to illegal means to stop opponents. He was last sent off in 1985.

However, in the tenth minute of West Ham's 2-0 defeat, he was shown the red card for clumsily bringing down Mark Bright, the Wednesday striker.

Television replays showed that Martin had clearly lost his footing before the challenge on the halfway line, and inadvertently fallen across Bright. "There was no intent," he said. "I simply slipped and Bright seemed to run into me."

After also reviewing it on tape, Danson, a self-employed carpenter and builder from Leicester, withdrew the sending off, which was for "serious foul play" and carried a three-match suspension. Though still collecting a caution, Martin is now free to continue playing in West Ham's struggle against relegation.

"Having seen the incident again, I felt it was appropriate to change the card to a yellow," Danson said. "I had the advantage of looking at it from a different angle and it didn't appear anywhere near as severe as I had first thought. I would be prepared to do this again and I'm sure most other referees would as well."

After Kevin Scott, the Tottenham Hotspur defender, was sent off for fighting with Les Ferdinand, the Queens Park Rangers forward, during the 1-1 draw at White Hart Lane on October 8, Peter Jones, the referee, from Loughborough, subsequently changed his mind over Scott's offence, having looked at the

video, and it was downgraded to a booking.

Blackburn Rovers have had occasion to complain about refereeing decisions this season, notably by Manchester United, but they still hold the whip hand in the FA Cup quarter-final match against Sheffield Wednesday at Upton Park nine days ago.

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Male, the world champion, has become a motorcycle courier to help finance his high-cost rackets career

Kicking up a racket for world crown

Sally Jones finds rivals building up for more confrontations over world rackets title

Neil Smith, the British professional, who two years ago came close to taking James Male's world rackets crown, is back in action after a hideous eye injury that threatened to end his career. Smith, 31, the head professional at the exclusive New York Racquet Club, narrowly lost in the final of the Henderson Professionals' championship at the weekend, his first tournament since the injury last August. But he starts as favourite for the Lacoste Open championship this week.

Smith had been due to challenge for Male's world championship this month, but his hopes were shattered by the freak accident during a practice session.

"I mistook a backhand and the ball ricocheted off the frame of my racket and straight into my left eye without touching the sides. I knew I'd done something really bad. It was pretty painful and I couldn't see a thing."

The injury turned out to be a potentially dangerous sub-retinal haemorrhage, blistering under the retina, with large clots of blood in the iris, which was partially detached and a mass of blood in the normally clear vitreous humour within the eyeball. The only treatment was rest. It was a traumatic time for Smith, a powerful, elegant stylist who until then had been widely fancied to dethrone Male. "I spent three weeks lying on my right side, totally still 24 hours a day, coughing up blood as it began to drain out of my eye

into my nose and throat. I thought I'd never play rackets again."

"It was infuriating because one day the eye would start to clear, the next it would go cloudy again. I tried to stay cheerful though and after five weeks I was working out on an exercise bike. A few weeks later, I started hitting a squash ball but couldn't see a racket ball at all. Towards the end of December, I suddenly began to focus properly: it was a great moment. Although I lost to Peter Brake, the Queen's club professional in the Henderson championship at the weekend, I'm hitting the ball really well. I just need more match practice."

Rackets is the world's fastest ball game and the ball

cracks around the high black-walled court at speeds of up to 150mph. It is hard and small enough to fit into the eye socket and several people have lost an eye at rackets. Not surprisingly, Smith did not step onto court without a wrap-around perspex eye shield.

"It was a miracle I got my full sight back and the doctors said I'd been a pinhead away from permanent damage which really puts my hopes and fears for the world challenge into perspective," Smith said.

The challenge has been postponed until the beginning of April, when Smith will meet Male in a head-to-head: the first best-of-seven game at Chicago's Male has not en-

joyed a classic build-up to his defence, either, spending part of last year trying out as a baseball batter for the Atlanta Braves. Despite encouraging reactions to his natural ball skills, he has decided that at 30, he is just too old to stand a chance of reaching the big time. After almost a year's travelling, he is restoring his depleted finances in hazardous fashion as a part-time motorcycle despatch rider for a Hackney firm while looking for a job in sports sponsorship. "It can be pretty hairy," the irrepressible Male said. "Your life passes before your eyes a few times every day. The other riders are all pretty tough nuts. I'm the only public schoolboy and I get plenty of stick, but we have a great laugh."

Male's biggest problem is lack of funds. In the next two months alone, playing and training most days, he's likely to get through up to 35 rackets (at around £50 a time). With coaching fees, a car, and time works out at around £25 an hour. It is making him question how long he can afford to keep competing at this level.

Male, an old Marlburian, is training with Alan Watson, the fitness coach to the England rugby squad at the BIMAL conditioning centre at Hammersmith, west London. When he was first assessed three years ago, Male was judged as fit as Linford Christie and this, allied to his naked aggression and unorthodox double-fisted style, should ensure a memorable world championship.



Smith wears a guard for his eyes even in practice

Damage to mainsail holds back Briton in BOC race

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN SAN DIEGO

LESS than 48 hours after the BOC Challenge fleet left Sydney on the third stage of the solo round-the-world race around Cape Horn to Punta del Este, Uruguay, a 60-knot gale shook the leaders and Nigel Rowe, of Britain, was forced to head for Ulladulla to make repairs.

A sudden change in winds from the light conditions experienced at the start, had split the mainsail on his 49ft yacht, *Sky Catcher*, from luff to leech, Rowe said yesterday. He was still, however, making 10 knots under headsail alone.

Another to be caught out was David Adams, the overall leader in Class 2. "The gales just about wiped me out," he said. "It was a vicious storm. The headsail tore and the furler got caught and tried to rip the mast out."

Leading the fleet is Christophe Auguin in the 60ft French entry, *Sceta Calabron*. He holds a 54-mile lead over his fellow Frenchman, Jean Luc van den Heede. Giovanni Soldini leads Class 2 and Niah Vaughan, the leading British entry, is in fourth place in class.

A lack of wind forced the postponement of the Louis Vuitton America's Cup challenge trials off San Diego yesterday but Dennis Conner's defence candidate, *Stars & Stripes*, made the most of the light airs to score a convincing victory over Kevin Mahaney's *Young America* which suffered from a broken winch for the second day.

Bill Koch, whose all-women crew aboard *America* enjoyed a lay-day yesterday, remains unimpressed, despite the fact that his yacht is now last in the trials. "I thought *Young America* and *Stars & Stripes* would be better than they are. Both are configured for seven knots or less of wind."

"But the probability of that happening during the final trials is only 35 per cent of the time. We will rise to the top when our new boat arrives for the fourth round of trials," he said confidently.

AMERICA'S CUP: Louis Vuitton Challenge trials. Second round: Overall standings: 1. Team New Zealand, 2. Nippon, 3. Team USA, 4. Team Australia, 5. Team France, 6. Team Canada, 7. Team Italy, 8. Team Germany, 9. Team Spain, 10. Team Japan, 11. Team Korea, 12. Team China, 13. Team India, 14. Team Brazil, 15. Team Russia, 16. Team Mexico, 17. Team Colombia, 18. Team Venezuela, 19. Team Argentina, 20. Team Chile, 21. Team Peru, 22. Team Ecuador, 23. Team Bolivia, 24. Team Paraguay, 25. Team Uruguay, 26. Team Cuba, 27. Team Haiti, 28. Team Dominican Republic, 29. Team Puerto Rico, 30. Team Trinidad and Tobago, 31. Team Barbados, 32. Team Guyana, 33. Team Suriname, 34. Team Guadeloupe, 35. Team Martinique, 36. Team French Polynesia, 37. Team New Caledonia, 38. Team French Guiana, 39. Team Monaco, 40. Team San Marino, 41. Team Vatican City, 42. Team Liechtenstein, 43. Team Andorra, 44. Team San Pedro and Miquelon, 45. Team Wallis and Futuna, 46. Team Cook Islands, 47. Team Niue, 48. 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Australia's turn to suffer after sliding to defeat

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN PERTH

THE headline was familiar, the subject matter scarcely credible. "Test Flops", screamed the tabloid back pages of Australia this morning, and for once it was not the hapless, hopeless Poms who were the target, but those evidently superior beings who had begun to believe in their own publicity only to discover, on Monday, that it was bogus after all.

Those responsible for the Australia cricket team, will hotly contest that complacency was a factor in the remarkable events at the Adelaide Oval. They would also prefer not to dwell, in public at least, on their eccentric batting under pressure, while the issue of Australia's persistent failures, when set a fourth-innings target, is virtually taboo.

Yet on the morning after the night before, these aspects all demanded an airing. Take nothing away from England's cricket, which, if only for a day, was compelling. But the Australians' mood, throughout Adelaide, had been less than intent. They played like a team mentally on their way to the Caribbean, believing the job at hand to be complete. They have had a rude awakening.

The talk today was of burn-out, much being made of the fact that the Australians have been on the road solidly since the end of August. Let us not, however, accept any of this as an excuse for the minor miracle on Monday. England's regulars have scarcely stopped travelling for more than 12 months now, and the fact that they could barely raise a side for Adelaide was a

symptom of overwork, as much as it was a measure of the merit of victory.

If Australia had won or drawn in Adelaide, settling the series, McDermott and Warne might wisely have been rested here in Perth, when the last Test begins on Friday. But they will have to front up again now and they were among the players who sat stony-faced on the flight from Adelaide yesterday while, behind them, England supporters rapturously cheered newsreel replays of the Australian collapse.

Craig McDermott and Damien Fleming, the Australia fast bowlers, were yesterday left out of the party to travel to New Zealand for a one-day tournament to guarantee their availability for the tour to the West Indies in March and April.

SQUAD: M A Taylor (captain), M J Slater, D C Boon, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, G S Bennett, R T Fothergill, A Hiley, S K Warne, R Phillip, J Angel, T B A May, G D McGrath.

If there is a downside to all this, and it is not being churlish to raise it, there is a risk that England, retrieving honour in this series will be used in high places as evidence that there is nothing structurally wrong with our game.

It was, however, only a week ago that Iain Sproule, a government minister, was in Adelaide charged with investigating the cause of our cricketing decline; that Bob Willis, a former England captain, was issuing his personal blueprint for a drastically

restructured game; and that there was murky talk among prominent players, past and present, of breakaway groups, television-led cricket and a terminally messy destruction of the county system.

Such profound concern, such radical speculation, is not to be abandoned after one perverse result and nor should it be if the series is now squared. The problems remain, rooted deep within the constitution of the English game and identified with candour and clarity in a letter to *The Times*, last week, by Raman Subba Row, the former chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board.

"It needs a drastic structural reorganisation," Subba Row wrote, "resulting in the parent running the subsidiaries rather than vice-versa as at present." Precisely so. But the degree of altruism required of the counties, to hand on their power to an elected management team, will, as Subba Row fears, defeat any such initiative.

For now, then, it must be sufficient to rejoice in the competitive climax of a series that promised no such tension. It is to be hoped that the positive cricket displayed on Monday does not give way to self-defeating caution. As England discovered on Monday, even the borderline umpiring decisions go your way when supremacy is achieved.

Match referees are a different matter. Atherton has found himself in trouble with another, this time John Reid rather than his old bete noire Peter Burge, on two counts. Reid considers that he has breached the spirit of the game by presiding over unacceptably slow cricket in the field and he has told Atherton that he must control the body language of his players.

The fine imposed on Chris Lewis, for his finger-stabbing dismissal of McDermott on Monday, may appear excessive, but Reid believes that England players have been too free with their expressions. It would be a great shame, given the admirable example he sets in other ways, if Atherton was condemned as presiding over a pouting, undisciplined team, and nothing that has occurred so far this winter warrants such a charge. Atherton deserved his day in the sun yesterday, playing tennis and drinking wine in South Australia while his opponents, for a change, adopted the weary faces of a beaten side in flight.



Atherton has cause to smile yesterday after serving up victory in Adelaide

TEST MATCH AVERAGES

Australia										England									
Batting	M	1	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Cts	Batting	M	1	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Cts
G S Bennett	1	2	1	114	102	114.00	1	2	2	J P Crawley	2	3	0	171	72	57.00	0	2	1
M J Slater	1	4	0	454	178	56.75	2	1	3	M A Atherton	2	4	0	395	88	49.37	0	4	3
M A Taylor	1	4	0	410	113	51.25	1	1	3	G P Thorpe	1	4	0	385	83	48.12	0	4	3
M E Waugh	1	4	0	346	140	43.25	1	1	3	G A Hick	1	4	0	208	98	41.60	0	1	3
(A Hiley)	1	4	0	228	74	37.00	1	2	2/1	G A Gough	1	4	0	204	56	25.50	0	1	3
D C Boon	1	4	0	227	131	28.37	1	1	3	M W Gatting	1	4	0	171	117	24.25	0	1	4
S R Waugh	1	4	0	189	84	27.25	1	1	3	A J Stewart	1	4	0	133	33	24.33	0	1	3
T B A May	1	4	0	155	31	10.35	0	0	1	P A J DeFreitas	1	4	0	141	88	22.50	0	1	3
M G Bevan	1	4	0	81	35	13.50	0	0	1	D E Malcom	1	4	0	50	29	12.50	0	0	1
D W Fleming	1	4	0	40	34	10.00	0	0	1	A R C Fraser	1	4	0	32	17	8.00	0	0	1
S K Warne	1	4	0	1	33	3.75	0	0	1	M J McGlashan	1	4	0	16	12	4.00	0	0	1
C K McDermott	1	4	0	3	36	2.25	0	0	1	P C R Turner	1	4	0	31	6	7.75	0	0	1
G D McGrath	1	4	0	1	0	0.00	0	0	1	M J McGlashan	1	4	0	1	1	0.50	0	0	1
P E Mchale	1	2	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	1										
Bowling	O	M	R	W	Avg	BB	50	100		Bowling	O	M	R	W	Avg	BB	50	100	
S K Warne	226	73	480	25	19.20	6-71	2	1		C C Lewis	31	105	6	17	50	4.34	1	1	
C J McDermott	204	67	596	28	21.28	6-53	3	1		A R C Fraser	76	11	231	11	21.00	5-73	1	1	
M E Waugh	41	9	115	5	23.00	0-3	0	0		D Gough	182	33	425	20	21.29	6-49	1	1	
D W Fleming	102	30	274	10	27.40	3-52	1	1		D E Malcom	126	25	390	11	35.45	4-39	0	0	
P E Mchale	27	3	67	2	43.50	2-61	0	0		P C R Turner	207	45	442	10	44.20	4-79	0	0	
G D McGrath	101	30	219	1	219.00	1-34	0	0		P A J DeFreitas	133	21	413	9	45.86	2-66	0	0	
M G Bevan	1	1	19	0	19.00	0-0	0	0		M J McGlashan	19	2	46	2	23.00	2-9	0	0	
G S Bennett	20	4	82	0	20.50	0-0	0	0		G A Gough	24	5	74	1	24.00	1-20	0	0	
G D McGrath	29	6	101	0	16.83	0-0	0	0		G A Hick	16	3	58	0	19.33	0-0	0	0	

Source: TCCBPA Cricket Record

Flower power gives Zimbabwe the edge

ANDY and Grant Flower compiled a 247-run partnership in Harare yesterday to put Zimbabwe in control on the opening day of the first Test match against Pakistan.

The pair's unbeaten stand, a record for any Zimbabwean wicket, began after the hosts had slumped to 42 for three. It left them 17 runs short of the highest stand by two brothers in Test cricket, posted by Ian and Greg Chappell for Australia against New Zealand in 1973-74.

Andy Flower, the Zimbabwe captain, hit 18 fours and a six in his unbeaten 142, his second Test century, while Grant, his younger brother,

ended the day on 88 not out with Zimbabwe on 289 for three. The pair exceeded the stand of 194 by Dave Houghton and Alistair Campbell against Sri Lanka last October.

Aqib Javed had earlier removed Mark Dekker, the Zimbabwe opener, and Houghton, for two and 23, respectively, while Wasim Akram accounted for Campbell, for one.

Another first for Zimbabwe was the inclusion of Henry Olonga, 18, a fast bowler and the first black player to represent the country.

Scoreboard, page 40

Unbeaten 99 by Hemp sweeps England A to victory

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DAVID HEMP scored a superb unbeaten 99 and shared a stand of 155 with Alan Wells, the captain, to bring England A to victory by five wickets against India A in Calcutta yesterday. The win secured the three-match series 2-0.

Hemp's joy, however, was tainted a little by the news — conveyed to him as he was halfway through his second celebratory beer in the team hotel — that he had failed to complete a fifth first-class century.

He and Dominic Cork had scrambled back for a third run, taking Hemp to 100 not out on the scoreboard, but, as England's target of 254 had been reached when the pair completed two runs, A.V. Jayaprakash and S.K. Bansal, the umpires, later ruled that the third was invalid.

Hemp was disappointed, but said: "The most important thing is that we won. Some of the glass had been taken off — but I should have hit the ball for four."

Hemp had been mobbed on the outfield by his delighted team-mates at the end of a hard-fought match which had looked like going India's way early on the final morning when England slumped to 82 for four.

However, then came the match-winning fifth-wicket stand between Wells and Hemp, whose innings included two sixes and 13 fours and which prompted John Barclay, the tour manager, to say: "I have not seen anyone hit the ball more sweetly than that."

John Emburey, in India with the A team as a bowling coach, added: "I think David's a very talented young player."

He played the spinners very well today, but I have always rated him as an especially fine player of quick bowling."

Yet life did not seem very rosy for Hemp, 24, in England A's previous match against India's Combined Universities side in Delhi. A

second innings duck left the Glamorgan batsman in despair, convinced that his chance of playing in the second international had gone. Even when Mark Ramprakash's call-up to Australia gave him, after all, an international debut in Calcutta.



Hemp: missed century

SCOREBOARD

INDIA A: First Innings 216 (U Challenge 75) Second Innings 363 (N S Rattray 127, R David 52)

ENGLAND A: First Innings 316 (A P Wells 83, J R Gellian 77, P L K Mrambeby 4 for 53)

Second Innings

N V Knight at Yadav b Chatterjee 40

M P Williams b b Chatterjee 37

J R Gellian at Yadav b Chatterjee 35

M Patel b b b Chatterjee 31

A P Wells b Chatterjee 29

D L Hemp not out 99

P E Mchale not out 11

Extras (b, lb, nb, etc) 11

Total (8 wickets) 254

FALL OF WICKETS 1-4, 2-77, 3-82, 4-82, 5-92

SLOWING: Mrambeby 11-0-33-0, Chatterjee 3-0-13-1, Chatterjee 15-1-42-1, Chatterjee 20-0-57-2, Bhambhani 30-1-69-1, David 1-0-1-0

Umpires: A V Jayaprakash and S K Bansal

ta. Hemp's confidence was further shaken by an incident on the day before the match.

Hemp said: "A couple of us went along to coach some boys from an orphanage. Min Patel had a bat first and one lad almost hit him on the head with a ball that bounced off what was not a very good pitch."

"When it came to my turn for a bat, I backed away a bit, not trusting the surface, and this little lad bowled me. He laughed, but it was pretty embarrassing."

"Before this game, I had not made many runs on the tour, so to get a knock like this at a great stadium like Eden Gardens is unbelievable. It's a shame about not getting the 100 — but I won't make that mistake again!"

Wells, the Sussex captain, wants his side to complete a 3-0 series victory by winning in Chandigarh, where the

third international starts on Saturday.

He said: "The last England team to come to India, the 1993 senior side, were beaten 3-0. But we have done well because we have adapted quickly to Indian conditions and, in effect, have played them at their own game."

"We've also fought for everything. There is talent in English cricket — I have always said that — and if you show the right attitude, it will come out. This series victory has been achieved the hard way, because we lost the toss both here and in the first Test at Bangalore."

"This squad is full of players with a lot of strength of character — which is just what you need over here. I am just glad we have given people back home something more to cheer about to go with the senior team's win against Australia."

RADIO CHOICE

Guinea pigs of the bomb

America Atomica. Radio 4. 8.45pm.

John Slater's investigation into a dream that has degenerated into a nightmare comes 50 years after America exploded the first atomic bomb in New Mexico. I have listened to highlights from the three episodes and have not slept well ever since. Tonight's opening instalment carries the subtitle *Guinea Pigs*. The label is all too accurate. Pregnant women, young children and the mentally impaired — most of them black, and none of them aware of what was being done to them — were used to test how the human body stood up to doses of radiation. But for the detective work of a local reporter, these American horrors would have remained concealed behind a wall of official silence.

Victoria Station. Radio 4. 2.00pm.

All good things come to an end — and so must Steve Chambers's sequence of plays about a Yorkshire railway station in the 1930s. Right up to the end, the drama is piled on. Two runaway wagons are hurtling along the line towards the station in which a train is standing. Simultaneously, an inquiry is taking place into a derailment that has killed the station fireman. The future looks bleak indeed for the station master (Sean Baker). To help to lessen the tension, a merry tune skips through the action like a fugitive from a Gilbert and Sullivan overture. The technical presentation — hissing of steam, squealing of brakes — has been outstanding. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa Anderson, incl at 12.30-12.45pm Newsweek, and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier incl The Amazing Spiderman 7.00 Evening Session, presented by John Peel and Steve Lamacq 8.00 Big from Last Week's Radio 10.00 Mark Radcliffe Midnight Lynn Parsons

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pulse for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.15 Pulse for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.08 John Durn 7.00 John Lloyd with Folk 9.30 with Kathryn Roberts and Kate Rusby 10.00 World-Wide Concerts. Qumtani plays Andean music 8.30 Barber Shop Style the annual convention of the Ladies Association of British Barber Shop Singers in Harrogate (2/5) 9.00 Anita Shalla's Across Two Cultures in conversation with Bishop Michael Neary-A-30.30 Night Cycles The Quagga Entertainers 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme with Jane Carver and Julian Worricker, including at 6.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.55 The Magazine with Dana Madill, including at 10.35 EuroNews, 11.15 Natural History 12.00 Midday with Mark, including at 12.34pm Lt Barclay with Moneycheck 2.05 Pussies on Five, with Sybil Ruscoe 4.00 John Inverdale, Newsweek 7.00 News Extra, including at 7.30 the day's sport in full 7.35 Trevor Brooking's Football Night 10.05 News Talk, with Jeremy Vine 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours, with Carole Malone 2.05 Up All Night

RADIO 3

6.55am Weather 7.00 On Air, with Andrew McGregor, including Offenbach (Overture), Orpheus in the Underworld, Granados (Danza española No 5), 7.28 Villa-Lobos (Harmonica Concerto) Robert Bonfili; New York Chamber Symphony; Greg, orch Sat (Norwegian Dance, Op 35 No 1); Purcell (A selection of songs); 8.32 Quartet Collector; Haydn (String Quartet in G, Op 34 No 1; Lindsay Quartet) 9.00 Composer of the Week: Taverner: The Choir of Christ Church, Oxford, performs the Missa, Mater Christi 9.45 Midweek Choice, with Susan Sharpe including Enesco (Romanian Rhapsody in A, Op 11 No 1); Schumann (Cello Concerto in A minor); Stravinsky (Septet); 10.45 Dufay (Missa: Ecce Ancilla Domini); Dubois (Toccata in G); 11.20 Tchaikovsky (Serenade for strings) 12.00 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, under Jane Glover performs Elgar (Overture, Cockaigne), Barry Guy (After the Rain); Britten (Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra) 1.00pm Professor Humphreys Lunchtime Concert, live from Studio 1. Mayumi Sailer, violin, Caroline Palmer, piano, play Bach (Sonata No 5 in F minor, BWV 1018), Schumann (Sonata in D minor, Op 121) 2.00 Scholes: Together — An Assembly for Schools 2.20 Time and Tune, Music Course 2 — Dig 2.40 Drama Workshop

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing, incl 6.03 Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 7.55 Weather 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Midweek 10.00 (10.30 News: The Lying Game (FM only); Irma Kurtz asks why people lie, how they justify it, and what effects lies have on others 10.15 The Pilgrims Progress (LW only) (18/25) (r) 10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenn Murray 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time: Pippa Greenwood, Anne Swinfenbank and Geoffrey Smith answer questions posed by members of the Herten and District Gardening Club (r) 12.00 News; You and Yours 12.25pm Rent: A second series of the award-winning sitcom by Lucy Flannery. Everyone, including the amateur DJ, is suffering from a cold. With Barbara Ryan, Patrick Barlow, Linda Polan, Toby Longworth, Vivienne Rochester 12.35 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with James Cox 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Victoria Station: See Choices 2.45 Unbroken Voices: I Want To Be Myself. Children from around the world talk about films, television, books and role models, and assess the

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM 92.4-94.8; LW 136, RADIO 5: 659kHz/433m; 909kHz/230m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1540kHz/104m; FM 95.8. GOLD: 1540kHz/104m; FM 95.8. SERVICE: MW 649kHz/453m. CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102. VIRGIN: MW 1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Mackay

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

KISSEL

(b) A sweet dish made from fruit juice mixed with sugar and water, which is boiled and thickened with potato or cornflour, an adaptation of the Russian *kissel*. "Moscow housewives are buying up huge amounts of berries just now — mostly blackcurrants, redcurrants and cranberries — to preserve them as jam or make a thin jelly (kissel)."

MALLAM

(c) A learned man, scribe, teacher, adaptation of the Hausa *malam*, often used as a title. "She went to all the priests and mallams and juju men for a hundred miles round and commanded them to give the baby medicine."

MURUS GALLICUS

(d) A type of late Iron Age Celtic fort having stone walls bound by horizontally placed timber frames, the Gaulish wall referred to by J. Caesar in *De Bello Gallico*, vii, xii. "One specialised form of timber-laced rampart, the *murus gallicus* or Gaulish Wall, was encountered by Caesar during his

[illegible]

As football honours a legend, Highbury stages a match that does his sport little credit

Magician still weaving his spell

David Miller pays tribute to the
timeless skill and sportsmanship
of Sir Stanley Matthews, 80 today

Johnny Carey, the former captain of Manchester United and Ireland, once said: "Playing Stanley is like playing against a ghost." Today, the ghost is 80, still spry and lean and wondering, with that strange, detached modesty, what all the fuss was about. Stanley Matthews, the only footballer ever likely to be knighted while still playing, never properly understood his fame, nor the affection in which he was held throughout the land and far abroad.



'He is symbolic of the beauty of the game... a magical player, of the people, for the people'

— From the inscription on the statue of Matthews

home town of Stoke tonight, among them the inimitable Ferenc Puskas, from Hungary, Ladislav Kubala, from Spain, and Branko Stankovic, from Yugoslavia, former foes and lifelong admirers.

This celebration of a unique life, of a player who took the bus to the ground together with his followers, who was never cautioned, stands in contrast to a game today besieged by violence, greed and withered sportsmanship. Across three decades, Matthews brought to football an aura of unprecedented glamour. Yet he himself, in the words of Arthur Hopcraft, the celebrated author "was the opposite of glamorous, brought up among thrift and the threat of debt and debt". The unqualified devotion of the British public, which flocked to see him, before the age of television, in tens of thousands, lay in his seeming frailty and his magician's spell over the opposing full back.

This unassuming genius

brought a sense of freedom and adventure, satisfying a common public yearning for simple pleasure. At his best, he was unplayable by fair means. Such was the esteem in which he was held by opponents that few descended into the expedient fouling which has intimidated the genius of later players such as Best and Maradona.

Sir Walter Winterbottom, the first England team manager, said Matthews was "without parallel, the matador goading and provoking... it was extraordinary how he could get the ball to float". Stanley Mortensen, Matthews' acclaimed partner at Blackpool, eulogised his qualities: "Fitness, balance, confidence, pace over ten yards, body-swerve, instantaneous control, two footed, marvellous temperament."

Geoffrey Green, the former football correspondent of *The Times*, who witnessed the golden international eras before and after the Second World War through to the Seventies, called Matthews "the greatest dribbler, the most superb ball-manipulator in the history of the game", and Green had seen them all. Jimmy Seed, the manager of Charlton Athletic's FA Cup Final teams of 1946 and 1947, said: "His feet are the greatest entertainment that football has known."

Matthews transcended ordinary football in a way none have ever done, not even Di Stefano, Pelé, Cruyff or Maradona. A mythology grew around him. Many of the record attendances in Britain were established when he was present. 84,559 at Maine Road, Manchester, 149,547 at Hampden Park. The week before he returned to Stoke City from Blackpool, in 1961, aged 46, the attendance had been 8,400. For his reappearance, against Huddersfield Town, it jumped to 35,000.

In his message of goodwill today, João Havelange, the president of Fifa, the world governing body, says: "Within the exalted company of elite personalities regarded on a plane superior to all others, foremost among these, for his ability and sportsmanship, shall always be Sir Stanley Matthews."

Matthews had not one career, but three: pre-war — probably his peak — war-time and post-war, the last the more astonishing because of his age. He first played for England at 19, against Wales in 1934, the last time against Denmark in a World Cup qualifier, aged 42, in 1957. Repeatedly discarded by vacillating selectors, his 54 caps — plus 30 war-time — should have been 154. Tom Finney, his friend and rival, said he ought to have been included in the squad for the 1958 World Cup finals.

The trance in which he could hold opposing full backs was bewitching. *The Daily Mirror* reported, in terms of thousands, lay in his seeming frailty and his magician's spell over the opposing full back.



Sir Stanley Matthews, a modest wizard of the wing whose birthday celebrations have evoked memories of a glorious career

England beat West Germany, then the recent World Cup winners, at Wembley, Matthews so mesmerised Kohlmeier that the crowd of 80,000 repeatedly laughed out loud. Like many before, Kohlmeier's confidence was destroyed, and he never played for Germany again.

Two years later, aged 41, Matthews dismantled Nilton Santos, the Brazil captain and regarded as the world's best left back, in a dazzling 4-2 victory at Wembley.

It was not uncommon for some moment of wizardry, resulting in a colleague's goal, to be openly applauded by the opposition, as when England beat Scotland 8-0 in 1943 — "our best team", Bill Shankly said — and Belgium 5-3 in

1947. For the maestro, there was little pleasure in scoring goals, only in making them. As Nat Lofthouse, the Bolton Wanderers and England centre forward, observed: "He stood there, toes turned inwards, looking like a little old man — until he moved. In that

third attempt, won an FA Cup winner's medal in Blackpool's 4-3 defeat of Bolton, in 1953. Lofthouse reflected on the final dramatic minutes: "I spent the time just watching Stanley. He stood there, toes turned inwards, looking like a little old man — until he moved. In that

final spell he could do it, and he knew he could do it." After eventual retirement, having played his last match for Stoke at 50 — "too early", he thought — he devoted himself to coaching. Briefly, he was manager at Port Vale, and in the Seventies, revered for his work in Soweto, he took the first all-black South African team on tour to Brazil.

The inscription on the statue by Colin Melbourn erected in Hanley in 1987 reflects the legacy from Sir Stanley Matthews to all sport: "His name is symbolic of the beauty of the game, his fame timeless and international, his sportsmanship and modesty universally acclaimed. A magical player, of the people, for the people."

SIR STANLEY MATTHEWS

1915: Born Hanley, February 1.
1928: Joined Stoke at age of 14, sweeping dressing-rooms and charged with cleaning 46 pairs of boots.
1934: First England cap, against Wales, aged 19 years and 340 days.
1948: Footballer of the year, transferred to Blackpool for £11,500.
1953: The Matthews Final. Blackpool beat Bolton 4-3.
1957: Wins 54th and final England cap against Denmark in World Cup qualifier in Copenhagen, aged 42 years and 103 days; European footballer of the year.
1961: Returns to Stoke in £2,500 deal.
1965: Awarded a knighthood while still active; plays against Fulham aged 50 years and five days then retires after 710 Football League games for Stoke and Blackpool. Becomes manager of Port Vale.
1967: Leaves Port Vale and embarks on role as roving ambassador for football.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 384

ACROSS
5 Quite a tidy sum (1,6,5)
8 Curtain-rail cover (6)
9 Yarn ambitiously (6)
10 Distortion (in pattern of statistics) (4)
12 More wild, unrestrained (7)
14 Smallest amount (7)
15 Forearm bone (4)
17 Vegetable; emerge from seed (6)
18 Dissimilar (6)
20 Integration: thorough learning (12)

DOWN
1 Writ against unlawful detention (6,6)
2 Formidably stern (4)
3 Of motive force; energetic (7)
4 Of time; secular; of the side of the head (8)
6 Dancer's frilly skirt (4)
7 Harrowing tense (5-7)
11 Occurring at (irregular) intervals (8)
13 Uphold (7)
16 Insect stage inside chrysalis (4)
19 Lower back (cut of meat) (4)

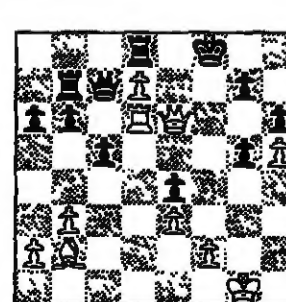
SOLUTION TO NO 383

ACROSS: 1 Fight back. 6 Bib. 8 Canon. 9 Footage. 10 Critic. 12 Kudos. 13 Vulgar. 14 Hot rod. 17 Blank. 19 Innate. 21 Ambient. 22 Hairy. 23 Toe. 24 Synagogue.
DOWN: 1 Face. 2 General. 3 Tan. 4 Affect. 5 Knock down. 6 Bland. 7 Blessed. 11 Thankless. 13 Vibrant. 15 Reprising. 16 Milton. 18 Ambie. 20 Dyke. 22 Hug.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Alterman - Matlak, Moscow Olympiad, 1995. The passed White pawn on d7 serves the useful function of cutting off the Black major pieces from the defence of his king. Can you see how White cashed in?



Solution, page 39
Raymond Keene, page 7

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

KISSEL

a. A door-stop
b. A sweet
c. The common people

MALLAM

a. The beach
b. An Indonesian language
c. A kingfisher

MURUS GALLICUS

a. The French shrewmouse
b. A sticky sweetmeat
c. A fort

KOTARE

a. Indentured labour
b. A fruit drink
c. A kingfisher

Answers on page 39

Opportunism
knocks loud
in Super Cup

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WHAT have we done to the White Knight's game? Later today, at Highbury, a full house of 39,000 is expected to gather for the spuriously prestigious encounter of the first leg of the European Super Cup, between Arsenal and AC Milan.

These are teams, albeit the champions and the Cup Winner's Cup holders of Europe, who glorify in the banality of what is called "the pressing game". For that, read depressing, Arsenal and Milan, who score barely a goal every 90 minutes, are built on squeezing charisma, freedom, space and spontaneity out of their opponents. Sir Stanley would have been sent off down the channels.

Worse, the match tonight appears to be the can of all worms. Milan come here in a week in which most of the sporting fixtures in their country next Sunday have been suspended after a Genoa supporter was knifed to death last Sunday; and so, for the first time since the Second World War, not a ball will be kicked in Italy.

Nevertheless, Milan come to London. This club, at whose ground two policemen and 16 supporters were hurt during the previous home game, which was banned from playing a European Cup Champions' League match at home after a visiting goalkeeper was concussed by a bottle, will bring 800 supporters, and by its own admission 200 of them are "ultras", hard core fanatics who get involved in violence.

The youth arrested for stabbing his victim five times last Sunday was purportedly a member of the Barbour Boys — a gang of hooligans who dress in English green country waxed jackets, their cover and their style for thuggery. They will meet, we are assured, the thoroughness of policing and stewarding to which England has, of necessity, become accustomed, stewarding which could not prevent the kung fu antics of Eric Cantona in London a week ago.

However, the match is about profit and opportunism. Arsenal will include Ian Wright before his four-match

suspension, imposed for his record of 12 yellow cards in 28 games. They may, if their request is granted by the Football Association, include Paul Merson, who we are now told has lost weight and shed the additions to alcohol and gambling, as well as his use of cocaine.

There will be a verdict from Lancaster Gate on that this morning. But Tony Adams, whose absence was due to Achilles' heel surgery, will apparently play. Meanwhile, we wait to see whether Milan include four players, among them the mercurial Montenegro, Savicevic, all of whom are hoping to use this two-leg competition to avoid suspensions in European Cup games later this season.

With or without them, Milan are unbeaten over nine games. They have shaken out

Martin retrieved 40
Diary 14

the tiredness and disappointment of Italy's near miss at the World Cup, and gone is the complacency that may cost them a fifth successive Italian championship.

Waiting for them is the Highbury set. The ground now is something more splendid than anything Sir Stanley ever set foot in. The naming in parliament of George Graham, the Arsenal manager, is also something unheard of in the time graced by the White Knight.

But behind this match of ultra professionalism, behind the prospect of two teams that know how to win without actually pursuing the purpose of public entertainment, one wonders about the very purpose of sport at this level, in these times. The English will have Heysel on their consciences forever; but it should not be forgotten that Italians were the main victims of that catastrophe, and it is a man of Milan, Ottavio Bianchi, the coach to the other Milanese team, Internazionale, who put into words the feeling of football folk worldwide. "Compared to life," he asked, "what is a game?" What indeed, one game or a thousand?

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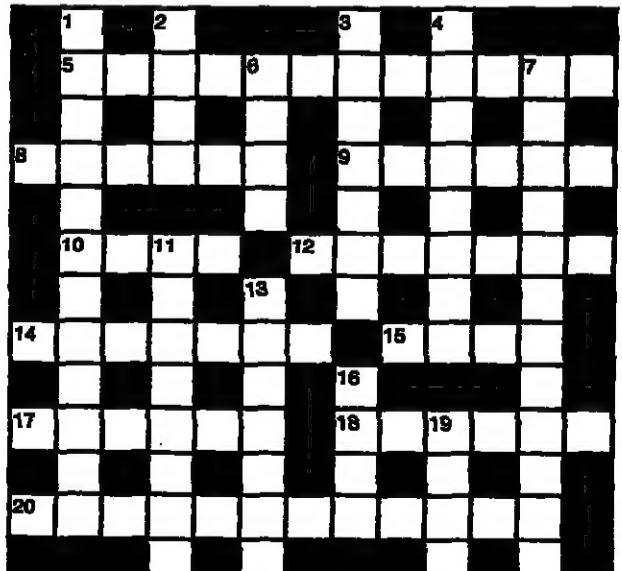
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